TUESDAY
March 4, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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DUPLICATE VOTER CARDS

'EC admitted to error but did not accept it'

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Study finds 6,327 Gangetic dolphins in four States

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14-MONTH SLOWDOWN

Manufacturing PMI slid to 56.3 last month

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Way to protect Rajasthan's sacred forests

SC's orders may not yield desired results

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SPIN GREAT

Padmakar Shivalkar passes away

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Police yet to understand fundamental right to free speech and expression: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked how a poem by Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi, which plainly translates to the "suffering of injustice with love", had stirred the Gujarat Police into registering a criminal case against him on the charge of promoting enmity among people of different groups on the basis of caste and religion.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said the poem was a reference to non-violence, a path followed by Mahatma Gandhi himself.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the State of Gujarat, said the poem was at best "*sadak chaap*" (cheap) and not a *Faiz*. He objected to the comparison to Mahatma Gandhi.

"Please do not compare

Imran Pratapgarhi

him [Pratapgarhi] with Mahatma Gandhi," Mr. Mehta urged the judges.

Justice Oka said the case raised the question whether the police of the country had still not wrapped their heads around the fundamental right of free speech and expression even 75 years after the Constitution.

The Bench referred to a tendency to stifle art and poetry.

"Nobody has any respect for creativity. If you read this poem plainly, it says that even if we suffer injustice, we will suffer it with love," Justice Oka said.

The court said the registration of a first information report (FIR) on the basis of this poem was a serious action by the police.

"Some sensibility has to be shown by the police. They should at least have read the poem and understood... Efforts should have been made to understand what the poem meant... That is respect for free speech and expression," Justice Oka addressed Mr. Mehta.

The Solicitor-General replied that it was capable of many interpretations. He indicated that asking a policeman to interpret may be a tall task.

CONTINUED ON
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SC seeks regulatory steps against 'vulgarity' online

Bench calls for measures to ensure programmes adhered to 'known moral standards' without censorship; allows Allahbadia to resume podcast subject to maintaining 'morality and decency'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, to suggest "regulatory measures" to rein in the use of "filthy language" and "vulgarity" which passes off as humour in programmes streamed online.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant said there was a clear divide between humour and perversity.

The court said the regulatory measures were intended to ensure that programmes adhered to "well-known moral standards" of Indian society without sliding into a censorship of the fundamental right to free speech and expression. They were to work as a reasonable restriction on freedom of speech to ensure decency and morality.

> Humour is an art. Humour is something that the entire family can enjoy and nobody feels embarrassed. That is talent. Using filthy language is not talent. Talent is using ordinary words to produce humour. We have excellent comedians in Bollywood. Writers of humour
>
> JUSTICE SURYA KANT

The court said it wanted a "healthy debate" on the issue with inputs from stakeholders.

The Bench was hearing an application filed by YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia seeking a modification of a clause in a February 18 order of the top court, which had provided him interim protection from arrest in criminal cases registered in Maharashtra and Assam over his comments in the show "India Got Latent".

The clause in question barred him from airing or telecasting shows, podcasts, and so on.

Appearing for Mr. Allahbadia, advocate Abhinav Chandrachud said that his client had "no sense of humour", but the prohibition would affect his livelihood and that of his 280 employees who worked with him on his show.

The court modified the bar, allowing Mr. Allahbadia to resume his podcast "The Ranveer Show", subject to maintaining "morality and decency" and making it suitable for viewers of all ages.

"Subject to the petitioner furnishing an undertaking to the effect that his whole podcast shows will maintain desired standards of decency and morality so that viewers of any age group can watch, the petitioner is permitted to resume 'The Ranveer Show'," the Bench said.

Mr. Mehta said humour for him was straightforward. "If you cannot make me laugh, you are not a good comedian," he said.

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NEARBY

Dues: BBMP to serve notices on govt. buildings

BENGALURU
The civic body is set to serve notices for recovery of long-pending service charges for government buildings in the city, including Vidhana Soudha, that houses the State's Secretariat and has an outstanding of ₹6.3 crore, as per BBMP data. » PAGE 3

HC fiat on birth certificates

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka directed the State government to issue appropriate orders to Registrars of Births and Deaths to cancel the earlier birth certificate while issuing a new one after correcting errors.
» PAGE 4

Anora's night at the Oscars

Here are the winners in key categories at the **97th Academy Awards**, held in Hollywood on Sunday

Cinematography
The Brutalist (Lol Crawley)

Visual effects
Dune: Part Two (Lambert, James, Salcombe, Nefzer)

Sound
Dune: Part Two (John, King, Bartlett, Hemphill)

Production design
Wicked (Nathan Crowley
Set Decoration: Lee Sandales)

Animated feature
Flow

Adapted screenplay
Conclave (Peter Straughan)

Original song
El Mal (Emilia Pérez)
Ducol, Camille, Audiard

Documentary feature
No Other Land

Costume design
Wicked (Paul Tazewell)

International film
I'm Still Here (Brazil)

Documentary short
The Only Girl In The Orchestra

Best picture: ***Anora***

Original screenplay
Anora (Sean Baker)

Editing
Anora (Sean Baker)

Original score
The Brutalist (Daniel Blumberg)

Best Director: **Sean Baker,** *Anora*

Best actor
Adrien Brody
The Brutalist

Best Actress
Mikey Madison
Anora

Supporting actress
Zoe Saldaña
Emilia Pérez

Supporting actor
Kieran Culkin
A Real Pain

REPORT ON PAGE 14

Paytm's parent firm gets ED notice for FEMA breach

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The agency says the alleged violation involves ₹611 crore in foreign investment in Singapore

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a show-cause notice to One97 Communication Ltd., the parent company of Paytm, its managing director, and others for alleged contraventions of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) involving ₹611 crore.

"We are working towards resolving the matter in accordance with applicable laws and regulatory processes. We remain committed to strengthening processes in adherence and upholding the highest standards of compliance and governance," a Paytm spokesperson said.

The show-cause notice has been issued by the Special Director of Enforcement (Adjudication) to Paytm's flagship company and Paytm's subsidiary companies, including Little Internet Private Ltd. and Nearbuy India Private Ltd.

"Investigation conducted by the ED reveals that Paytm's flagship company OCL had made foreign investment in Singapore and did not file necessary reporting to the Reserve Bank of India for creation of overseas step-down subsidiary. Further, OCL had also received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from overseas investors without following proper pricing guidelines stipulated by RBI," the agency said on Monday.

The OCL's subsidiary company in India, Little Internet Private Ltd., had also received FDI, allegedly without following the pricing guidelines stipulated by the RBI. Nearbuy India did not report the FDI receipt within the timeframe prescribed by the RBI, the agency claimed.

U.P. woman on death row in UAE already executed: govt. to HC

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh resident Shahzadi Khan, 33, who was on death row in Abu Dhabi for allegedly murdering the four-month-old son of her employer, had already been executed, the Ministry of External Affairs told the Delhi High Court on Monday.

"She was executed on February 15. Her last rites will be held on March 5," Additional Solicitor-General Chetan Sharma told the Bench of Justice Sachin Datta, who termed the execution "very unfortunate".

The submission came during the hearing of a petition filed by Shabbir Khan, the deceased woman's father, who approached the court to know about the well-being of his daughter.

"We did our best. We hired a law firm there to represent her in court and sent mercy petitions and pardon requests to the Government of the United Arab Emirates. But the laws there deal with the murder of an infant very severely," the Ministry told the court.

The Ministry submitted that the highest court of the UAE, the Court of Cassation, upheld the sentence.

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State has proved wrong many predictions on guarantee schemes, says Governor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, Speaker U.T. Khader, and Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot lauded the Karnataka government's "impressive performance" on various fronts and said the administration had disproved many predictions that the State would lag in development and the financial system would deteriorate owing to implementation of the ambitious guarantee schemes.

In his 70-minute address to the joint session of the State legislature, delivered in Hindi, the Governor said the State government was developing a unique model of development, one that was being studied by economists and universities worldwide. The severity of inequality was decreasing owing to the efficient implementation of the welfare schemes, he said.

"The government has proved the prediction to be false. The State has recorded good achievements in every sector. The State income is increasing. Private capital is flowing into the State in record numbers."

"The government is shaping a unique model of development. The Karnataka model of development means creating a people-centric economic, social and cultural governance. Green energy and women empowerment are also included in this," Mr. Gehlot said.

Pointing out that the Karnataka model was being studied extensively by global experts, he said, "Oxford University has described this model as 'Shining a light in the darkness' and 'A blueprint for the world' in its Human Rights Hub blog. The head of the United Nations has personally visited the State to learn about this model and openly praised our programmes."

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ANOTHER REPORT ON
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Man killed over cow smuggling suspicion; five held in Haryana

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Haryana Police have arrested five "*gau rakshaks* (cow vigilantes)" for allegedly kidnapping the driver and helper of a truck on suspicion of cow smuggling in Palwal over a week ago. After being brutally assaulted by the gang, the helper died.

The accused threw the two into a canal, assuming both were dead, but driver Balkishan managed to swim to safety and lodged a police complaint. The body of Sandeep was fished out from the canal on Sunday, eight days after the incident.

The accused, associated with a cow protection group, assaulted the two with lathis, swords and hammers, causing multiple fractures and stab injuries, a police officer, not wishing to be identified, said. After a week-long combing operation, the body was found around 15 km from where it was dumped, the officer said.

In a similar case six months ago, a teenager and his friends were chased by five persons for several kilometres before he was allegedly shot dead on suspicion of being a cow smuggler in neighbouring Faridabad.

CONTINUED ON
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M BG-BGE

Minimum fuss, maximum efficiency — the Axar Patel method

From being a replacement to Jadeja till 2017, the street-smart southpaw has played various roles while often flying under the radar; he is Rohit's go-to man in the PowerPlay, making light of having only two outfielders with his unerring accuracy

Ultimate compliment: Kohli tries to touch the feet of Axar after the latter's dismissal of Williamson in India's final group game of the Champions Trophy against New Zealand in Dubai on Sunday. PTI

R. Kaushik

As he has been several times in the past, Kane Williamson was being a thorn in India's side. One of the most accomplished players of the turning ball, the former New Zealand captain was at it again, working a single there, bunting a two here. Occasionally, he would play the sweep, or rock right back and find the narrow gap between the two points, or a backward point and a short third-man. And more than once, he made room to go inside-out, with the turn, over cover when Ravindra Jadeja flighted the ball and got it to break away from the right-hander.

It was a masterclass in the art of batting on a turning track against a high-quality, four-pronged spin attack. Soft of hands, deft of feet, Williamson loomed between India and a perfect record in the group stage of the Champions Trophy. The outcome wouldn't impact the qualification scenario, but it was important in the context of carrying confidence and momentum to the knockouts.

India were not running scared. They knew they were one wicket away from getting stuck into the tail. Not necessarily Williamson's wicket, but that would be great, wouldn't it?

Axar Patel had bowled eight tidy overs (none for 27) in his first spell, a spell that began in the seventh over with the Kiwis on 28 for one, chasing 250 in their bid to make it three out of three. The tall left-arm spinner has been Rohit Sharma's go-to man in the PowerPlay, making light of having only two outfielders with his unerring accuracy. In those eight overs, he fell into excellent rhythm, attacking the stumps, giving nothing away in terms of room or shortness in length. New Zealand might have believed – or not – that he was the weakest link in the Indian spin quartet, but if they had designs of going after him, Axar thwarted those with his control.

Brought back in the 39th over, more than an hour and a quarter after his last ball, Axar landed the ball on a coin straightaway. He doesn't get enough credit for being a smart bowler, but he is nothing if not that.

Occasionally round-armish but often delivering from a good height, he looks straightforward enough to negotiate but when the ball fizzes out of his hand, it can be quite a handful. Patrolling the outfield, Axar had seen how Williamson had taken on Jadeja. He perhaps visualised that when he came on for his last ball of the match.

Williamson came down the track, making just a little bit of room, but where Jadeja had turned the ball away and allowed the batter to free his arms, Axar slid it in, cramping him.

Gone!

Caught in no-man's land, Williamson was beaten on the inside-edge as the ball scooted through to K.L. Rahul, who had had a challenging night behind the sticks. This time, Rahul was on point. He gathered the ball low but securely and held his pose, waiting an eternity to remove the bails as Williamson kept walking towards the dressing room. Gone. Gone. Gone.

Axar finished with one for 32, the big wicket off his last ball thoroughly deserved, given the control he had given Rohit and his own spinning colleagues. He hasn't been, perhaps never will be, hailed as an outstanding spinner because he doesn't give it a mighty rip and beat batters with flight and drift and dip and loop and turn and guile, but there are many ways to skin a cat and few are more effective in doing so than the 31-year-old from Anand.

Did we say Axar doesn't get enough credit for being a smart bowler? Scratch that. Axar Patel perhaps doesn't get enough credit for being a smart cricketer. For being a very, very good limited-overs all-rounder – an accurate bowler who can get among the wickets when there is assistance, a terrific batter who is so wonderfully adept at playing the situation and a gun fielder. There was a time when Axar was considered the poor man's Jadeja. No longer, no sir.

Axar's limited-overs career began in June 2014 and meandered along till the end of 2017, when he suddenly went out of circulation. He largely batted at No. 7 or 8, occasionally at No. 9, and didn't always bowl his full quota of overs.

He primarily played when Jadeja wasn't available, but for nearly four years, he went out of white-ball circulation as other 'all-rounders' were preferred, among them Krunal Pandya who was considered a like-for-like replacement. In this period, Axar did make his Test debut against England at home in early 2021 when Jadeja was injured and responded in style with 27 wickets in three Tests, including 20 in back-to-back games in Ahmedabad to facilitate India's entry into the final of the inaugural World Test Championship.

His Test bowling gradually suffered thereafter – only 28 wickets in his subsequent eight Tests – while his batting went in the other direction. Having batted at No. 8 on debut, he moved up to No. 6, and once No. 5, in his last Test series, also against England at home, early last year as the team management showed confidence in his defensive approach in the absence of several key top-order batters, including Virat Kohli and Rahul. But it is in the two white-ball formats that he has found his true calling since his limited-overs international comeback in June 2022.

His roles have differed depending on the format. In T20Is, he is used more as a restrictive option, with whatever wickets he picks up considered a bonus.

In the longer white-ball version, he is slightly more attacking but not overtly so, as evidenced by 71 wickets from 66 matches. But his economy is a staggering 4.49 – the corresponding number is 7.70 in 71 T20Is – and given that he often bowls definitely one and potentially two overs in the PowerPlay, that is an exceptional return.

At the T20 World Cup in the Americas last year, Axar was brilliant all the way through, except in his final over of the competition, against South Africa in Bridgetown. His fourth over, the 15th of the final, went for 24 as Heinrich Klaasen got stuck into him. It threatened to undo all his good work of the preceding month but his teammates rallied around him immediately after those six balls.

Rishabh Pant had an arm around him, Jasprit Bumrah came haring from the boundary with words of encouragement and Rohit pointed out that Klaasen had hit good balls for boundaries. Axar was lifted; he could feel the love, he knew how much he was liked and backed within the team environment.

By then, Axar had played a crucial hand with the bat, walking in at 34 for three in the fifth over with Keshav Maharaj and Kagiso Rabada running riot. Rohit could have sent one of Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya or the more experienced Jadeja to fill the breach but plumped for Axar instead, confident that the rangy left-hander could take the fight to the bowling. Alongside a singularly becalmed Virat Kohli, who at one stage went 35 deliveries without a boundary, Axar steadied the ship. Or should it be, ahead of Kohli? Axar's contribution in a fourth-wicket stand of 72 was a sparkling 47, off 31 deliveries with four towering sixes as he freed his arms and used his long levers to great effect. Axar hadn't been sent to just stem the flow of wickets. He was given the license to play with freedom, to use his discretion, and he did that superbly, the big shots coming without the slightest amount of risk.

Humble, grounded

There is much to like and admire about Axar Patel. Easygoing and with a ready smile, he wears his status as one of India's more influential white-ball cricketers most lightly.

Humble and grounded, he has remained untouched by his performances, and if he is bothered that in certain quarters, he might not have got his due, that doesn't seem to affect him at all. He isn't a showman, he doesn't play to the gallery.

He gets on with his business with minimum fuss and maximum effect, one of the primary reasons why he is such a popular figure in the dressing-room.

In this Indian ODI set-up, formidable and well-stocked, it's great credit to Axar that he has worked his way up to the No. 5 slot, occupied with such felicity by Rahul until recently.

It's not that Rahul has experienced a slump in form, necessitating a shake-up. Rohit and Gautam Gambhir felt India would be better served with the left-handed Axar going up and Rahul dropping down to No. 6, a message that was conveyed to him at the start of the England ODIs at home last month.

Axar responded with 52 and 41* in his first two hits at No. 5, then shifted gears downwards in a crucial fourth-wicket stand of 98 with Shreyas Iyer against New Zealand in Dubai on Sunday, a stand that allowed India to recover from 30 for three to post 249 for nine.

During his studied 42 (61b), Axar showcased surety in defence as well as a complete commitment to attack when he did decide to open his shoulders. He reiterated that the confidence reposed in him by Rohit wasn't without basis, his propensity to float without being pulled down by the weight of expectations a huge bonus for a side that prides itself on versatility and flexibility.

Axar is a prime example of the white-ball template that India have made their own under Rohit. That he is an outstanding fielder – Imam-ul-Haq, anyone? – adds to the aura and makes him one of the more indispensable limited-overs exponents in the country. Credit? Oh well...

THE GIST

- Axar's limited-overs career began in June 2014 and meandered along till the end of 2017 when he suddenly went out of circulation
- It is in the two white-ball formats that he has found his true calling since his limited-overs international comeback in June 2022
- At the T20 World Cup in the Americas last year, the all-rounder was brilliant right through

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Executive Engineer Office, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, Upper Bhadra Project, Division No.5, Chitradurga.
Phone No.:08194-230102 E-mail:eeubp.d5cta@gmail.com

No.EE/VJNL/UBP/DIV5/CTA/08 TANK FILLING-INFORMATIVE-QUOTATION/2024-25/1637 Dated:20.02.2025

INFORMATIVE QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

INFORMATIVE QUOTATIONS are invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, VJNL, Bangalore, from the registered / reputed agencies / Contractors / Manufacturers / suppliers. for the Work"**Filling up of 08 leftover tanks of Chitradurga assembly constituency under Upper Bhadra Project"** for estimate preparation purpose. The information quotations can be obtained in this office or at VJNL Nigama website **https://vjnl.karnataka.gov.in,** filled informative quotationscan be submitted to this office in sealed coverup to**12.03.2025 till 5:00 PM**.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/651/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No.5, Chitradurga.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our Client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its Owner **SRI. RAJENDRA N** S/o late Lakshmaiah Setty, Aged about 59 Years R/at No.100, 17th Main, Near Navarang Theater, 1st Block Rajajinagara, Bangalore- 560 010- PAN No. AIQPR8606R Aadhaar No. 8062 1491 0170, who represent to my client that he is the absolute Owner of the Schedule Property having acquired by way of a Sale Deed dated 25-09-2023 and registered as Document No: BSK-1-07482/2023-24 in the office of Sub Registrar, Basavanagudi (Banashankari) Bangalore, If any person/s, entity, firm, Financial Institution, (Corporate or Otherwise) Company/ies has or claims any right, title, interest, claim/s, attachment, charges, pending Litigation, court order in the form of a Decree/Award/Injunction, minor claims, Partition Suit, Lease agreement/ Rent Agreement, mortgage or mortgage by way of Deposit of Title deeds etc or demand of any nature in or upon the aforesaid property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation, or demand made together with supporting documents within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete the purchase transaction/ proceed on the basis that there are no claims in respect of the aforesaid property. Objections and/ or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our client

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential House property bearing House list No.8, Khatha No.29, Situated at Vasanthapura Grama, Uttharahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently within the limits of (BBMP) Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Ward No. 197, and bounded on: **East By:** Road; **West By:** Other's property; **North By:** Road; **South By:** Site No.9
Measuring: East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 35+45/2 feet, (Eastern side 35 feet and Western side 45 feet) in all measuring 1600 sq.ft along with RCC roofed building of 28 Squares consisting Ground floor 14 squares and in First Floor 14 Squares house constructed thereon, with cement and bricks walls, doors and windows made of jungle wood, with all civic amenities, like water, sanitary and electricity facilities.

Sd/- Sangram .S. Savanth
M/s. SARALA LAW ASSOCIATES, Advocates
Office at No. 237, Shivapoornima, 32nd Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 070. Ph.: 98453 93708 / 9448320201 / 9481248049

Place: Bangalore Dated: 04.03.2025

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-2 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02. Email: choph515@gmail.com

No. BBMP/2024-25/IND0075 Date: 01.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION-3rd Call

(Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Name of work: **Supply of Handheld Refractoscope Machine (3rd Call).**
Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 28.02.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting : **04.03.2025 at 10.30 am at Office of the Special Commissioner (Health), 3rd Floor, Room No. 301, Annex-3 Building, Bengaluru-02. (3)** Last date for uploading online queries: **04.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm. (4)** Last date for uploading e-tenders: **10.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm. (5)** Date of Opening of Technical bids: **11.03.2025 at 5.10 pm. (6)** Date of demonstration of sample submission: **shall be intimated after technical bid opening.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (Public Health) BBMP

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Divn., Athani – 591304, Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum (Karnataka).

No./KNNL/HBC/PB/FIC/TND/2024-25/ 3924 Date: 25.02.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-5

(Through kpp-portal only)

Percentage tenders are invited as per KW-4 in Two cover system for below mentioned Work on from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division Athani, invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful civil contractors from KPWD Class II and Above Contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.

The two cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 4, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kpp-portal karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender only.

The approximate estimated cost of work is 1) Rs. 490.62 Lakhs
1:The contractor can request for e-tendering documents: From 04.03.2025 @ 10.30 AM to 12.03.2025 upto 4.00 PM, 2:Last date & time for tender queries:11.03.2025 upto 4.00 PM, 3:Pre bid meeting will be held in the office of the EE HBC Division Athani:10.03.2025 upto 11.00 AM, 4:Submission of completed e-tendering document:From 04.03.2025 @ 10.30 AM to 12.03.2025 upto 4.00 PM, 5:Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani :14.03.2025 @ 11.00 AM, 6:Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani: 17.03.2025 @ 11.00 AM or After approval of Technical Bid, 7:Date for Producing original document @ EE KNNL HBC Division Athai:15.03..2025 @ 11.00 AM

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on telephone: 08289-251034 and H.P company helpline 080-22485867

Sd/-Executive Engineer, KNNL HBC Division, Athani

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1819/KSMCA/2024-25

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KANAKAPURA

Ramanagara (District) - 562 117.
Ph. : 080-2752 2428. E-mail: kanakapura_tmc@yahoo.co.in
Website : www.kanakapuratown.mrc.gov.in

No. : C.M.C./K.K.P./T.S./CR/TEN-30/2024-25 Date : 27-02-2025

RE-TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Kanakapura invited tenders from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department under the Civil Registration Act for the following works under the S.F.C. Special Grant for the year 2018-19 and the Municipal Funds for the year 2024-25, subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant tender document. Below works are Called for General category.

1) DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT33881/CALL-3, Estimated Amount : Rs. 1.24 Lakhs. 2) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT 33684/CALL-3, Estimated Amount : Rs. 4.90 Lakhs, 3) DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT30218/CALL-3, Estimated Amount : Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, 4) DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT32246/CALL-3 Estimated Amount : Rs. 20.00 Lakhs, 5) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT32247/CALL-3 Estimated Amount : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. 6) DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT32288/CALL-3, Estimated Amount : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. 7) DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT32441/CALL-3, Estimated Amount : Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. 8) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33751/CALL-3, Estimated Amount : Rs. 95.00 Lakhs.

The details of the tender date and other information are as follows. **The Last Date for Submission of Tender is 14-03-2025 till 5.30 p.m., The Date of Opening of Technical Bid is 17-03-2025 at 11.00 a.m., The Date of Opening of Financial Bid is 19-03-2025 at 11.00 a.m.,** any corrigendum or extension of time will be published in e-procurement portal only, not be published in any newspaper. **Further details can be obtained from the office technical branch.**

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC, Kanakapura.

DIPR/Ramanagar/625/Manipal/2024-25

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD-R.R Nagara Zone, 9th floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex. 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bangalore-560 011.

No: EE/SWD/TEND/RRZ/01/2024-25 Date: 03/03/2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, SWD-R.R Nagara Zone, BBMP, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES /National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Expansion/Widening of narrow water vents for Construction of Retaining walls, 'U' drains, Box drains and Culverts/Bridges to Storm Water Drains at Various locations in R.R Nagara and Yeshwanthpura Constituency of R.R Nagara Zone "Package RRN-1" (Project No. 14, 15 & 28) . **Approximate Value of work :** Rs. 698.12 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs.1,00,000.00 through KPP portal and Rs.9,47,180/- through BG in favour of EE (SWD-R.R. Nagara Zone).

Calendar of events: 1) Pre-Bid Meeting is on 12.03.2025 at 15.00 hours. 2) Last Date for receipt of Tenders is on 24.03.2025 up to 16.00 hours. 3) Date of Opening of the bid is on 25.03.2025 by 16.30 hours or next working day. 4) Date of Opening of the financial bid will be intimated to technically qualified contractor successful bidder in KPP portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, SWD-R.R Nagara Zone

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, BBMP, Bommanahalli Zone, Bangalore-560068.

No: SADH(S)TENDER/07/2024-25 Date:03.03.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Single & Two Cover System)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahali zone invites tenders from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms registered in labour department for Maintenance of Parks / Horticulture Works in following wards .

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Est. Cost of work (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	No. of Works
		Reserved for others		
1	202	19,87,850/-	49,696/-	1
2	203	1,28,56,100/-	2,00,000/-	1
3	206	26,23,875/-	52,478/-	1
4	207	95,36,850/-	1,90,737/-	1
5	209	92,26,200/-	1,84,524/-	1
6	215	43,33,675/-	86,673/-	1
7	216	23,44,870/-	50,000/-	1
8	218	4,36,500/-	10,913/-	1
9	219	1,33,800/-	3,345/-	1
10	221	1,84,77,288/-	2,77,159/-	1
11	222	63,12,825/-	1,26,257/-	1
12	223	4,86,000/-	12,150/-	1
13	Maintenance of Borewell in South Assembly Constituency Park.	42,00,000/-	84,000/-	1
		Reserved for CAT II (A)		
14	204	23,62,550/-	25,000/-	1
15	205	35,32,725/-	35,327/-	1
16	224	14,33,750/-	35,844/-	1
		Reserved for CAT I		
17	213	16,30,000/-	20,375/-	1
		Reserved for SC		
18	214	11,60,100/-	14,501/-	1
19	217	24,60,600/-	25,000/-	1
20	Maintenance of Borewell in Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency Parks	45,00,000/-	45,000/-	1
21	Maintenance of Toilets at South Assembly Constituency.	12,53,628/-	15,670/-	1
		Reserved for ST		
22	Maintenance of Toilets at Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency.	12,53,628/-	15,670/-	1
			Total Works	**22**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: from 06.03.2025 onwards. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting: **10.03.2025 at 11:30 am. 3)** Last date for submission of Bid documents: **12.03.2025 upto 4:30 pm. 4)** Date of opening of Technical bid: **14.03.2025 at 11.30 am. 5)** Date of opening of Financial bid: **After Approval of Technical bid.** Further details can be had from KPP Portal or contact KPP Portal Helpdesk at : 080-22371090 / 22373788 or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Bommanahalli Zone).

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase from (i) SRI. MANJUNATH, aged about 56 years, Aadhaar No.XXXX-XXXX-7058, and (ii) SRI. MOHAN KUMAR, aged about 49 years, Aadhaar No.XXXX-XXXX-7962, both sons of Late. Chikka Honnappa, residing at Muttagadahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Riral District, the below-mentioned Schedule Property as they claim that they are the absolute owners and registered Khatedras in possession of the land, and the same is free from all encumbrances, charges, claims, or demands of whatsoever nature.

Any person/s having an objection to the transaction may lodge their objection/s supported by cogent documents with the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** from the date of this notice. If no objection/s is/are raised within the said period, my client would go ahead with the sale transaction in respect of the property below mentioned deeming there is/are no objection/s from whomsoever and of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF immovable agriculture land bearing **Re-Sy No.5/7 measuring 00:28 (A/G)** bounded on: **East by :** Remaining portion of land in Re-Sy No.5/7, **West by :** Remaining portion of land in Re-Sy No.5/7, **North by :** Land in Re-Sy No.5/5, and **South by :** Land in Re-Sy No.5/2, **plus 00:29 (A/G)** bounded on: **East by :** Land in Sy No.6, **West by :** Remaining portion of land in Re-Sy No.5/7, **North by :** Land in Re-Sy No.5/5, and **South by :** Land in Re-Sy No.5/2, **together measuring 01:17 (A/G),** situated at **Muttagadahalli Village,** Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

From: V. C. Chandan, Advocate,
LEGAL EYES, Advocates & Solicitors,
No.892, 'Prathama', 8th A Main Road,
3rd Stage, 3rd Block, Basaveshwaranagar,
Bengaluru - 560 079.
Mob: +91-90360-05454, 9900132032
Email: chandangowda21@gmail.com
Bengaluru, Date : 04/03/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client **Sri MOHAN,** S/o. Nagaraj, R/a. Sarjapura, Bangalore, has negotiated to PURCHASE THE BELOW MENTIONED SCHEDULE PROPERTY from its Present owner: Mr. RADHAKRISHNA HEGDE, S/o Late Subray Hegde, aged 67 years, R/a. No:237, 301 Swathi apartment, 5th Main, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, represented by his GPA Holder: Sri. ASHOKA. A., S/o. Late Anjanappa, aged 39 years, R/a No. 11, Doddathimmasandra, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk. If anybody having any claims, rights, title, interest, ownership or any objections of the proposed sale, may please submit their representations /Objections along with the documentary proof to the undersigned advocate within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, if no response received from anybody, thereafter my client shall be at liberty to proceed to obtain the Sale Deed in his favour or his nominees from the aforesaid owner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Agricultural Land bearing Sy No.175, measuring to an extent of 0-26 Guntas, situated at Doddathimmasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Dist. and bounded on the:
East by: Property belongs to Krishnappa and Gurumurthy,
West by: Raja Kaluve,
North by: Property belongs to S.V.Konda Reddy,
South by: 9 Meters Road.

A.MANJUNATH, B.Com, LLB
Advocate. #924, 28th Main,
9th Block, jayanagar, Bangalore-69.
Mob: 98453 95528.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.49, 4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560001.Phone No. 080-22265383
Website: www.kiadb.in

No.IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-52/968/2024-25 Date : 28.02.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: 1) Re-conditioning, Operation &maintenance of Streetlights at Kadakola & Thandya Industrial Areas, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysore District (2nd Call). (Category : Others). 2) Re-conditioning, Operation &maintenance of Streetlights at Nandikoor, Miyar & EPIP 1st Phase Industrial Area, Mangaluru District (2nd Call). (Category : Others).

- **Last date for submission of bids is: 11.03.2025 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5420/AKAR/2024-25

झारखण्ड सरकार, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

ई–अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई–अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- **09/2024-25/RII/STPKG/RWD/EE/JSR**
दिनांक :- **01.03.2025**

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार **e-procurement** पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र स	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल संख्या
			अंक में	अक्षर में		
1	RWD/EE/JSR/STPKG/07/2024-25	निरूडीह से पलासबानी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–1.700 कि0मी0)	77,06,600.00	सतहत्तर लाख छः हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	तृतीय
		आर0ई0ओ0 रोड से कोलाबरीया तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–1.350 कि0मी0)	1,26,95,800.00	एक करोड़ छब्बीस लाख पन्चानवे हजार आठ सौ रू0 मात्र		
		बेसारपहाड़ी से चटानीपानी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–7.000 कि0मी0)	4,80,48,500.00	चार करोड़ अस्सी लाख अड़तालीस हजार पॉच सौ रू0 मात्र		
		आर0ई0ओ0 रोड से चिंगरा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–1.850 कि0मी0)	1,39,61,200.00	एक करोड़ उन्चालीस लाख एकसठ हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L063 आर0ई0ओ0 पथ से जामबनी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लम्बाई–1.825 कि0मी0)	94,72,500.00	चौरानवे लाख बहत्तर हजार पॉच सौ रू0 मात्र		
	कुल		9,18,84,600.00	नौ करोड़अठारह लाख चौरासी हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र		

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– **05.03.2025 I**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:– **19.03.2025** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– **20.03.2025** अपराह्न 5.00 बजे ।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल,जमशेदपुर

PR 347552 Rural Development(24-25).D

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.

Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526 PA : 8147796539. e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website :https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in principal: bmcrcballari@gmail.com

No:BMCRC/SUP/TEND/ENT/15/2024-25Date: 28.02.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Medial Equipments to Department of ENT, BMCRC,Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before **15.03.2025up to 5.00 PM**.The total approximate cost of tender is **Rs.189.25 Lakhs**. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and **www.bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/979/KSMCA/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Mahadevapura Zone) Vengaiah Eco Park, K.R. Puram, Near Garuda Apartment, Bangalore-560036

No: SADH(MDP)TENDER/08/2024-25 Date:03.03.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Single Cover System)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Mahadevapura zone invites tenders from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms registered in labour department for Maintenance of Parks / Horticulture Works in following wards .

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Est. Cost of work (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	No. of Works
		Reserved for others		
1	88	27,08,800/-	54,176/-	1
2	91	44,17,500/-	88,350/-	1
3	94	28,95,800/-	57,916/-	1
4	102	31,30,750/-	62,615/-	1
5	105	22,54,500/-	45,090/-	1
6	107	67,08,525/-	1,34,171/-	1
		Reserved for CAT II (A)		
7	86	39,36,875/-	39,369/-	1
		Reserved for CAT I		
8	100	23,90,000/-	23,900/-	1
		Reserved for SC		
9	90	22,65,000/-	22,650/-	1
10	103	27,87,125/-	27,871/-	1
		Reserved for ST		
11	95	22,92,500/-	45,850/-	1
			Total	11

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: from 11.03.2025 onwards. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting: **14.03.2025 at 11:30 am. 3)** Last date for submission of Bid documents: **17.03.2025 upto 4:30 pm. 4)** Date of opening of Technical bid: **19.03.2025 at 11.30 am. 5)** Date of opening of Financial bid: **After Approval of Technical bid**. Further details can be had from KPP Portal or contact e-procurement helpdesk at : 080-22371090 / 22373788 or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Mahadevapura Zone)

THE MYSORE PAPER MILLS LIMITED

Forest Division, Paper Town, Bhadravati - 577 302
Cell No. 9448218706

MPM/FFR/DF/RM/REG/2024-25/045 DATE: 27-02-2025

NOTIFICATION

The existing and other contractors who are interested to register/renew their names with MPM Forest Division, Bhadravati for the period 2021-2023 as MPM Forest Contractor for carrying out the extraction & transportation of pulpwood from MPM Captive Plantations, may submit their application in the prescribed form by paying registration fee' of Rs.1000/- in the form of NEFT/deposit in favour of MPM Ltd., Paper Town, Bhadravati vide current A/c No. 19053070001737, IFSC No CNRB0011905 Canara Bank, B.H. Road, Bhadravati to the office of Director(Forests)i/c. Applications received after the due date will not be accepted. The prescribed application form and other terms & conditions can be had from the office of the undersigned on or before 27-03-2025 at 4.00 pm. MPM reserves the right to register/renew as MPM Contractor or reject any or all without assigning any reason thereof. Interested contractors can also refer to our website: http://mpm.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Director(Forests)i/c

DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/16/03/1779

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD, West Zone, BBMP, 9th Floor, Jayanagar Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 011

No.: EE/SWD/WZ/TEND/04/2024-25 Date: 03.03.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)
TWO COVER SYSTEM

The Executive Engineer, SWD-West Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Expansion / widening of narrow water vents for culverts / bridges of SWD at Summanahalli Main Road for V-200 in Vrushabhavathi Nagar in Mahalakshmipuram Constituency of West Zone. ``Package West-1''. **Amount put to tender (in Lakhs):** 388.75, **EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs):** 5.85.
2	Providing fencing along the SWD at indentified critical locations to avoid solid waste being thrown to SWD in East, West, South, Yelahanka, Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli, RR Nagara and Dasarahalli Zone. **Amount put to tender (in Lakhs):** 385.00, **EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs):** 5.80.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **05.03.2025. (2)** Pre bid meeting is on **12.03.2025** at **4:30 p.m.** at the Office the Chief Engineer, SWD, BBMP, 9th Floor, Shopping Complex, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bengaluru-560 011. **(3)** Last date for receipt of tenders is on **24.03.2025** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bid is on **25.03.2025** by **4:30 p.m. (5)** Opening of Financial bid: **will be intimated to the Technically qualified bidders after 27.03.2025.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, SWD (West Zone), BBMP

ERMA-2025 International Conference held at NMIT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kaushlendra Narayan, Director (Operations) of Silverspark Apparel Ltd. (A Raymond Initiative), emphasised the importance of women's participation in sustainable development for India to become a developed nation.

While inaugurating ERMA-2025, a two-day International Conference based on the theme 'Sustainable Business Practices: Institutional Responsibilities and Opportunities', organised by the Department of Management Studies (MBA), Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (NMIT), recently, Mr. Narayan stressed that achieving national progress would require the dedication and efforts of all genders, with women playing a crucial role.

Demand for sustainable products and services

He further highlighted the growing demand for sustainable products and services among consumers. He noted that companies committed to sustainability are better positioned to build stronger brands, foster customer loyalty, and gain a competitive edge.

Now, recruiters seek management students adept at handling tech, AI

With the rising use of technology in every sector, some educational institutions have begun training students in tech subjects for the last couple of years

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

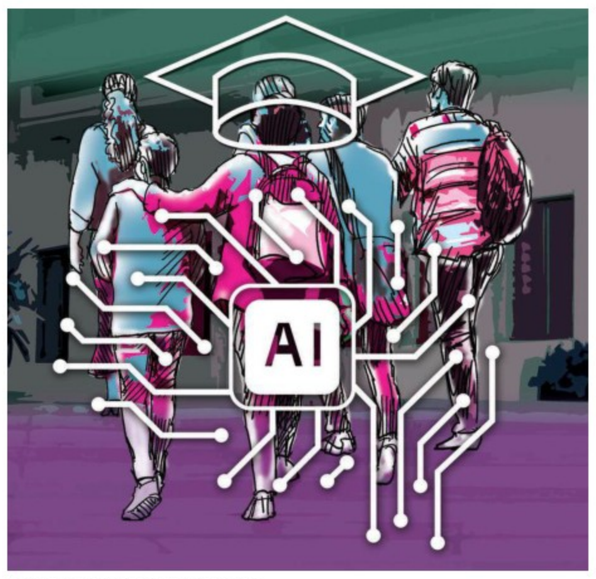

ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Educational institutions have to keep up with new trends every placement season. This year, while most management institutions are seeing fairly good placements, the skill requirements of companies are on the rise. This time around, recruiters are actively seeking students who have knowledge of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology.

"The placements are slightly better than last year. Nevertheless, we have had around 92% placements for management this year. The expectations of recruiting companies have changed as they want students to have a know-how of things like Generative AI, and other basic technological skills," said Preethi Bhandari, Head of Corporate Relations, Jain Group of Institutions (JGI).

Some institutions said that while all companies do not have such requirements, IT and other companies whose core is technology, mandate them.

"We have observed that IT companies usually want even management graduates to have a fair idea of technology for recruitment. In general, keeping in mind the current state of the market and downsizing in companies, there are many challenges in placements this year. We are also seeing that companies are not visiting on the specified dates, or some are not recruiting as promised," said Shobha. D.V., placement coordinator, St. Joseph's Institute of Management.

With the rising dominance of technology in every sector, some institutions say they had begun training students of all courses in such subjects over the last two years.

"We were ahead of the curve, and we trained our students across the management spectrum in subjects like data management, big data and others. We are seeing a very good placement season and a lot of companies which were previously looking at hiring from Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are looking at institutions like ours where the gestation period and the time it takes for students to start working is usually shorter," said Monisha Aluvilla, who heads the office of placements and career guidance for management studies at Christ University.

Over 640 offers at IIMB

Meanwhile, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, said that despite it being a tough year globally, a record of more than 640 offers have been received by 580 students from marquee companies while 23 more students are in the placement process.

Gen-Z students being offered internships before permanent jobs

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Corporate companies now prefer to get to know their candidates through three-to-six-month internships rather than conduct a one-time interview. FILE PHOTO

The professional attitudes of Generation-Z (Gen-Z) have been a matter of discussion for a few years now as more students of the generation graduate and enter the workforce. The placement officers in colleges and universities have seen a new trend where graduates are being offered internships instead of job offers to assess their professionalism.

Corporate companies now prefer to get to know their candidates through three-to-six-month internships rather than conduct a one-time interview.

"These days, everyone is 'AI-enabled', and students are tactically trained for 20-minute interviews. But the real calibre of candidates can only be assessed when they work in an organisation," explained Monisha Aluvilla, who heads the office of placements and career guidance for management studies at Christ University.

The new norm is both appreciated and viewed as a challenge by educational institutions.

For instance, Augustine George, Principal, Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, said that this norm encourages students to develop their skills. "Companies prefer to train students during internships and then absorb them based on performance. It keeps the students in the right direction as they have to prove that they are competent to work in the company. This happens mostly for management and commerce students, and we generally see a 90% conversion rate," he said.

No guarantees

The placement officers of a few other educational institutions said that this situation often leads to concerns among both students and colleges as there is no guarantee about conversion.

Some also face issues with stipend which can range anywhere from around ₹25,000 to ₹50,000 on an average. Such colleges reported a conversion rate of 60 to 70%.

IT industry

While this seems to be a new trend for management and other courses, it has been a common practice in IT industry for a few years now.

"In the last few years, IT companies have been offering internships first to check the performance of the students before making them a job offer. The students are also aware that they need to perform and cannot get internships easily. We also do an orientation programme about the ways of recruitment and a majority of our students get job offers after internships," said K.S. Sridhar, Dean of Placements, PES University.

Union Bank of India sanctions ₹476 crore in loans at MSME Outreach Camp at Hoskote

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Bank of India hosted an MSME Outreach Camp in Hoskote on Monday, to support the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region. The event aimed to encourage entrepreneurship, promote government schemes, and provide essential financial assistance to local businesses.

At the camp, the bank sanctioned collateral-free loans under the 'Union MSE Support' scheme and offered specialised MSME loans to women entrepreneurs through the 'Union Nari Shakti' initiative. Additionally, key government-backed schemes like PMMY (Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana), PM Vishwakarma, PMJDY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana), Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and retail CASA services were also made available to the visitors.

The event saw over 500 beneficiaries, with 351 loan accounts sanctioned, totalling ₹476 crore. Loan sanction letters were distributed to the recipients.

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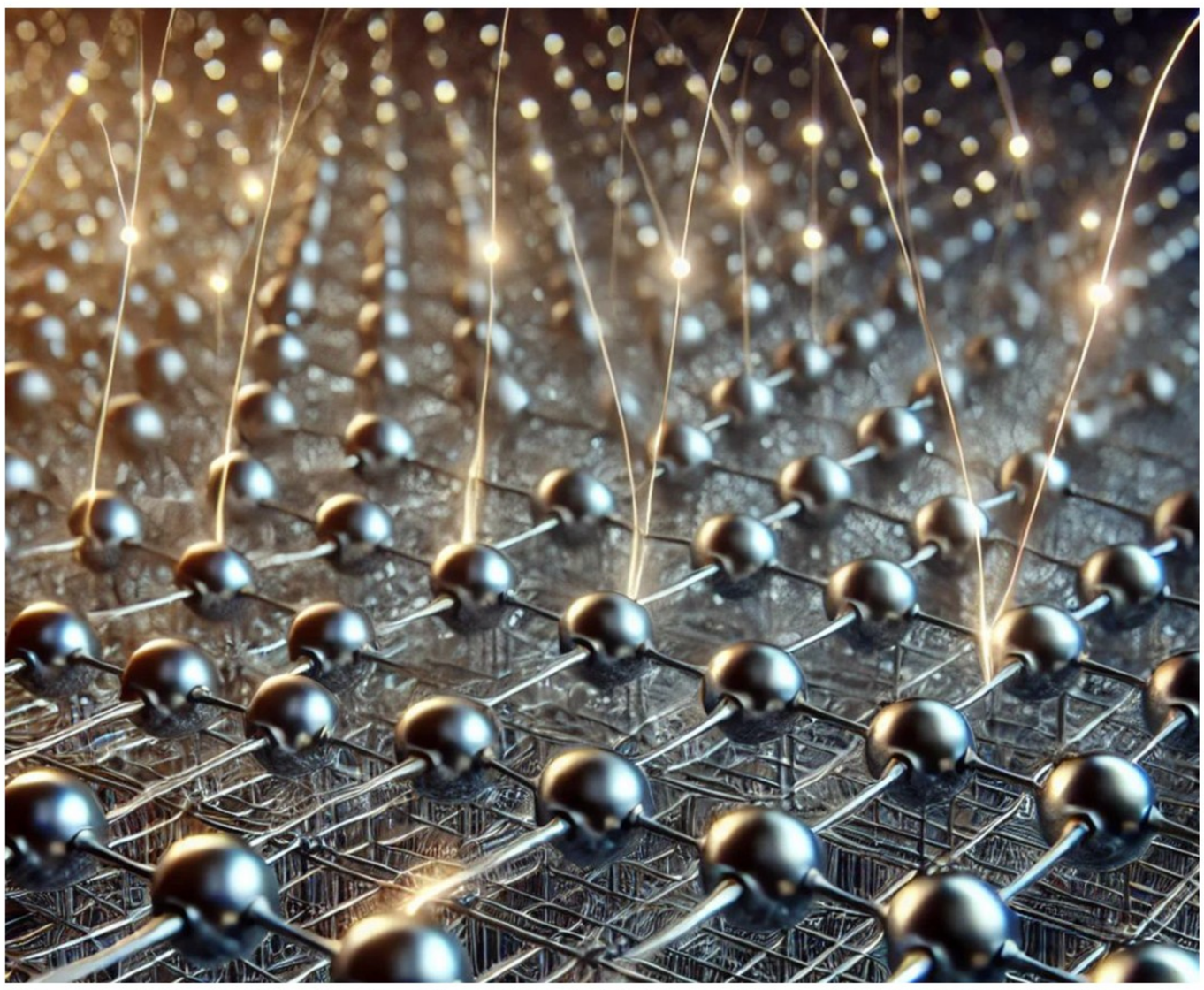
Research team takes big step towards making a Bose metal

Traditional theories for disordered metals say that at absolute zero temperature, the metals should either become an insulator or a superconductor. A Bose metal challenges this description because its conductivity stays between zero and infinity as the temperature tends to absolute zero

Vasudevan Mukunth



This is a rough illustration of a grid of nuclei (metal nodes) in a metal through which electrons are flowing (golden streaks). IMAGE CREATED WITH CHATGPT

A metal is a material defined by specific properties, including conducting electricity well. Every metal has a finite conductivity – a measure of how well it conducts – in particular conditions. It changes when the metal is heated or cooled.

For example, at a pleasant 20° C, the electrical conductivity of zinc is roughly 16.9 million siemens per metre. But cool it to a frigid -272.3° C and its conductivity becomes infinite. This is because at this temperature zinc becomes a superconductor: able to conduct an electric current with zero resistance.

Scientists know of many metals that have a finite conductivity at room temperature and infinite conductivity at very low temperatures. This drastic change in behaviour is because of something that happens to the metals' electrons. At room temperature, the electrons in a grid of zinc atoms move freely throughout the material, transporting electricity if a voltage is applied. Each electron itself repels other electrons and is also acted on by other forces imposed by the 3D grid of atoms around it, including vibrations in the grid, impurities in the material, and attractive forces exerted by protons in the nuclei.

When this grid is cooled to a low temperature, many of the forces weaken. At under a critical temperature, in zinc's case -272.3° C, the net force on electrons is weakly attractive. That is, the electrons are mildly attracted to each other across large distances (i.e., beyond the short range across which they still repel each other). This net force causes the electrons to 'pair up' without getting closer and together behave in a way that individual electrons can't. These pairs are called Cooper pairs. Thanks to the low temperature, at some point these pairs of electrons undergo a phase transition, forming an exotic state of matter within the zinc grid called a superconductor. It is this superconductor that has infinite conductivity.

Almost a superconductor, yet not

Metals that don't become superconducting at very low temperatures still become better conductors because the forces that resist the flow of an electric current also weaken at lower temperatures. ('Current' here refers only to a direct current. The flow of an alternating current in a superconductor elicits a variety of effects, including those that resist its flow.)

Some metals, or metallic substances, do something weird. Below the critical temperature, their electrons experience the net attractive force and pair up – but then they don't yet condense to form a superconductor. That is, the material doesn't become a superconductor but just a better conductor, and it conducts electricity with Cooper pairs, not electrons. In this state, the material is said to have become a Bose metal.

A Bose metal is a kind of anomalous metallic state (AMS). The 'anomaly' is that the Cooper pairs are formed but don't condense into a superconductor. In technical terms, they fail to establish long-range superconducting coherence. Studying AMSs, in a wider field called condensed matter physics, is important to understand disordered metals, where the grid of atoms has an irregular structure or impurities or the material is alloyed in a way that prevents it from behaving like a 'regular' metal. Disordered metals thus have deviant properties but we don't fully understand the different ways in which they can deviate. Studying them helps scientists probe a variety of quantum processes.

For example, traditional theories that describe disordered metals say that at absolute zero temperature, the metals should have either zero conductivity (become an insulator) or infinite conductivity (become a superconductor). A Bose metal challenges this description because its conductivity is between zero and infinity as the temperature tends to absolute zero – or at least it may be if we saw one in action.

So far, Bose metals have only been predicted to exist in specific materials; scientists haven't synthesised or found them. It's possible in fact that Bose metals may not exist at all, but that would be useful to know, too, for the implications for physicists' theories of AMS.

But on February 13, a team of researchers from China and Japan reported in the journal *Physical Review Letters* that they had found strong signs that niobium diselenide ($NbSe_2$) can become a Bose metal.

Magnetic field as villain

Like zinc, $NbSe_2$ also becomes a superconductor at low temperature but with additional 'abilities.' This is due to a key detail: magnetic fields and a material's superconducting state never get along. If a zinc sample is placed in an external magnetic field and cooled slowly to under its critical temperature, the moment it becomes a superconductor the sample will expel the magnetic field from within its body.

A Bose metal is a kind of anomalous metallic state. The 'anomaly' is that the Cooper pairs are formed but don't condense into a superconductor. In technical terms, they fail to establish long-range superconducting coherence

$NbSe_2$ goes through the same transition at a particular temperature and magnetic field strength. But when the field strength is slowly increased, $NbSe_2$ enters a 'mixed state': it remains superconducting but also allows the magnetic field to enter its body in small, isolated pockets without spreading through its bulk. If the field continues to strengthen beyond an upper threshold the superconducting state will collapse and $NbSe_2$ will revert to its pre-superconducting state.

Materials with this more dynamic road through superconductivity are called type-II superconductors. The forces that act on electrons in such a material as it is cooled and magnetised become more pronounced if the material is physically thinner. And one theory of Bose metals predicts that if a 2D version of this material – i.e. a single layer of $NbSe_2$ molecules – is subjected to a magnetic field oriented a certain way, a Bose metal will be created.

The researchers set out to check this and found all the hallmarks of such an AMS, but the study's lead investigator and Nanjing University professor Xiaoxiang Xi stopped short of calling it a Bose metal, telling *Physics* magazine the definition of the AMS is "somewhat ambiguous."

In particular, the team used Raman spectroscopy to find the thin $NbSe_2$ had Cooper pairs without entering a superconducting state and the material's Hall resistance vanished as the team increased its thickness. When a piece of regular metal is placed in a magnetic field and a current is passed through it, the piece develops a voltage in the perpendicular direction. The resistance associated with this voltage is called the Hall resistance. The Hall resistance vanishing in $NbSe_2$ is a sign that its charge-carriers are Cooper pairs rather than electrons.

"Our results suggest that the AMS is characterised by fluctuating local pairing, which fails to condense," the team wrote in its paper. "Theories focusing on the role of phase fluctuation in disrupting global superconductivity could provide valuable understanding of the phenomena observed."

They added that the findings impose "limitations on theories centred around" pockets of superconductivity in a non-superconducting material and the coexistence of superconducting and non-superconducting phases in the same material.Bose metals don't have concrete applications today but they are a rich playground for physics research that could inform future innovation.

(mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)

The SPHEREx telescope at a facility in Boulder, Colorado, in the US. AP

NASA to launch SPHEREx to explore what happened right after Big Bang

Reuters

NASA is preparing to launch a megaphone-shaped observatory on a mission to better understand what happened immediately after the Big Bang that initiated the universe and to search the Milky Way for reservoirs of water, a crucial ingredient for life.

The US space agency's SPHEREx space telescope is tentatively scheduled to be launched on March 4 aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

SPHEREx, short for Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer, is looking to answer questions about the origin of the universe while mapping the distribution of galaxies.

It will also look within our galaxy for reservoirs of water frozen on the surface of interstellar dust grains in large clouds of gas and dust that give rise to stars and planets. The observatory, during its planned two-year mission, will collect data on more than 450 million galaxies, as well as more than 100 million stars in the Milky Way, as it explores the origins of the universe. It will create a three-dimensional map of the cosmos in 102 colors.

The mission is intended to gain insight into a phenomenon called cosmic inflation, the rapid and exponential expansion of the universe from a single point in a fraction of a second after the Big Bang that occurred roughly 13.8 billion years ago.

"We have pretty good evidence that inflation occurred, but the physics driving that event is really uncertain," said cosmologist Olivier Dore of Caltech and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a SPHEREx project scientist.

The mission is to gain insight into cosmic inflation, the rapid and exponential expansion of the universe from a single point in a fraction of a second after the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago

"By mapping the distribution of galaxies over the whole sky, we can directly constrain unique properties of inflation. This is why we want to map the whole sky and why we need spectroscopy (studying objects based on color) to make the map 3D. The fact that we can connect these two things – the distribution of galaxies on large scales all the way to the physics of inflation – is very powerful and very mind-boggling and almost magical," Dore added.

Jim Fanson, SPHEREx project manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, called cosmic inflation "the consensus framework for explaining aspects of the universe that we observe on large scales."

"It postulates that the universe expanded by a trillion-trillion-fold in a small fraction of a second after the Big Bang," Fanson said.

SPHEREx is set to take pictures in every direction around the earth, splitting the light from billions of cosmic sources such as stars and galaxies into their component wavelengths to determine their composition and distance. Researchers will also measure the collective glow of light from the space between galaxies. Being launched along with SPHEREx is a constellation of satellites for NASA's PUNCH mission to observe the sun's corona, the outermost layer of its atmosphere. The aim is to better understand the solar wind, the continuous flow of charged particles from the sun.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Ukraine almost signed a rare minerals deal with the US. What are they?

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

This element is included in the US's list of critical minerals. It is prized for use in the control rods of nuclear reactors and for use in compounds that change their shape when magnetised (i.e., magnetostrictives), especially Terfenol-D. Name it.

QUESTION 2

_____ _____ come in two types and are useful to convert the more noxious gases emitted by internal combustion engines to less harmful compounds. Their function usually involves platinum, palladium, and/or rhodium. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

Glasses that include an oxide of this element seem blue under fluorescent light and pink under incandescent light. Glasses doped with the element make for lasers that emit infrared light. Some of its alloys are among the most powerful permanent magnets known. Name it.

QUESTION 4

In 1879, a Russian mine official named Vassili Samarsky-Bykhovets became the first person to have an element named after them. Among the element's various applications is a drug called Quadramet, which treats the pain due to cancer in bones. Name the element.

QUESTION 5

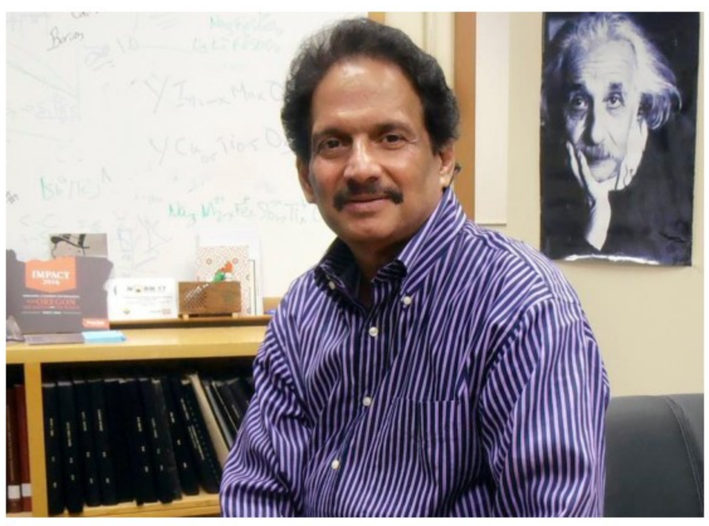
When preparing the iron-carbon alloy known as steel, the addition of different quantities of other elements can confer additional virtues to the final material. For example, adding at least 8% by content of _____, a critical mineral, renders the steel resistant to corrosion. Fill in the blank.

Answers to the February 27 quiz:

1. Term denoting activities and moods suited to evenings – **Ans: Vespertine**
2. Word to describe worm-shaped objects – **Ans: Vermiform**
3. Force that forms/breaks bonds due to shifting electron density – **Ans: Van der Waals force**
4. Process by which yolk forms in oocytes – **Ans: Vitellogenesis**
5. Air pollution form that results from volcanic eruptions – **Ans: Vog**

Visual: **Ventifacts**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Dinesh Kumar | Vishwani Geethanath | Kalpita Wadher | Rahul Nair



Visual: Name this scientist. In 2009, he and Andrew Smith found the first new inorganic blue pigment in two centuries by mixing three critical minerals. JTANGOSU (CC BY-SA 4.0)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAR. 04	
RISE 06:34	SET 18:29
RISE 09:42	SET 22:48
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 05	
RISE 06:33	SET 18:29
RISE 10:33	SET 23:51
THURSDAY, MAR. 06	
RISE 06:33	SET 18:29
RISE 11:28	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	24
Mysuru	33	20
Bengaluru	33	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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BBMP all set to serve notices on govt. buildings in CBD for recovery of dues

A total of 257 such structures in the East Zone have an outstanding of ₹272 crore

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Vidhana Soudha owes a principal amount of ₹2.1 crore, with an additional ₹50,400 as Solid Waste Management cess. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The city's civic body is all set to serve notices for recovery of long-pending service charges for prominent government buildings in the city, including Vidhana Soudha, that houses the State's Secretariat and has an outstanding of ₹6.3 crore, as per Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) data.

Data shows that the East Zone alone, that houses most of the State's key government apparatus, has a total of 257 buildings from 45 different government departments with an outstanding of ₹272 crore, including penalty and interest over pending dues.

While the BBMP has always maintained that even government buildings have to pay service charges instead of property tax and cesses like private buildings, most government buildings haven't paid the service charges since 2008, when the BBMP was formed. This has been recorded as dues, compounded with interest and penalty, since then, in the BBMP's books. The civic body has time and again tried to recover these dues, to no avail till date.

While Vikasa Soudha has an outstanding of ₹15 crore, Raj Bhavan ₹2.5 crore, High Court of Karnataka ₹13 crore, the Stamps and Registration Department owes ₹14 crore to the civic body. The Education Department tops the list with ₹93 crore in pending dues from nine of its units in the East Zone. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), responsible for Bengaluru's urban planning, has an outstanding of ₹15 crore, and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), under the Union Government, ₹2.3 crore.

Breaking down the pending dues, Vidhana Soudha has a principal amount of ₹2.1 crore, with an additional ₹50,400 as Solid Waste Management (SWM) cess. The penalty stands at ₹1,700, while accrued interest is pegged at ₹4.1 crore. Vikasa Soudha has a principal due of ₹5.3 crore, with interest soaring to ₹10.42 crore.

Snehal R., Zonal Commissioner (East), BBMP, told *The Hindu* that during the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme in 2024, notices were issued to several of these buildings including Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha, and M.S. Building, but the arrears remained unpaid. "Last week, the BBMP prepared fresh notices, but due to minor rectifications, the process was temporarily halted. However, the civic body will soon issue notices to recover the dues," she said.

The OTS scheme, aimed at easing financial burdens, had provided significant relief by waiving compounding interest on arrears and reducing penalties by 50%.

A senior BBMP official from the Revenue Department remarked that these government departments had been taking the civic body for granted by continuously defaulting on payments. "Despite receiving all civic services, including solid waste management, they have failed to fulfill their financial obligations. This time, the BBMP is determined to enforce strict measures and issue notices to recover dues, bolstering its revenue," the official said.

How much is due from whom

Government agency	Total pending amount (in ₹)
Education	93,30,77,450
BWSSB	16,65,94,201
BDA	15,99,07,912
High Court	13,56,31,050
BSNL	11,26,43,823
Vidhana Soudha	6,32,54,048
Raj Bhavan	2,52,78,577
ISRO	2,38,83,142
Bowring Hospital	1,46,39,014
BMTC	1,26,18,987

Gehlot highlights infrastructure, environmental initiatives for city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot addressing the joint session of the State legislature in Bengaluru on Monday. Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader and Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti are seen. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot highlighted some of the major initiatives for developing infrastructure and decongestion of traffic in Bengaluru, Mysuru and other tier-II and III cities in Karnataka by the Siddaramaiah-led government.

In his customary address to the joint session of the State legislature, the Governor said the government proposes to construct a double-decker flyover consisting of metro rail and road of 40.50 km length to reduce traffic congestion in Bengaluru city. The combined metro rail-cum-road flyover project is being undertaken at a cost of ₹8,916 crore.

The Governor further said the government has decided to obtain a loan of ₹27,000 crore from HUDCO to implement the Bangalore Peripheral Ring Road Part-1 project. The work is intended to be carried out by acquiring 2,565 acres, and 73 km of road would be constructed. He said ₹14,788 crore worth of work of Bangalore Metro Rail would be taken up in Phase-II, and ₹15,611 crore in Phase-III.

Drinking water
He said six tmcft of water has been allocated to meet the additional drinking water needs of Bengaluru city and its suburbs. A detailed project report has been prepared for the project, estimated to cost ₹6,939 crore, which is to be implemented in the current year.

With a view to increasing the basic infrastructure of Karnataka, work on an airport in Vijayapura, at a cost of ₹347 crore, was completed and made ready for passengers this year.

Steps have been taken to expand the Mysore airport runway and to develop Raichur airport. The work of identifying land and land acquisition process for developing airstrips in Dharmasthala, Madikeri and Chikkamagaluru was being done, Mr Gehlot said.

Noting the steps taken by the government for safeguarding the environment, he said an additional 15,000 acres have been notified as reserved forest to increase the forest area. About 5,000 acres of invaluable forest land has been cleared of encroachments, including 117 acres in Bengaluru city.

To protect the green belt and the habitat of rare birds in Bengaluru city, 5,678 acres of the Hesaraghatta lake area has been declared as Greater Hesaraghatta Protected Grassland, the Governor said.

Development of a large tree park has begun at a 153-acre plantation in Madappanahalli near Yelahanka in Bengaluru.

Legal proceedings have been initiated to reclaim forest land worth ₹14,300 crore given to the defunct Central Government-owned HMT in Peenya plantation, and save it as a green lung space, the Governor said.

Financial literacy camps organised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

During Reserve Bank of India's Financial Literacy Week (February 24 to 28), State Bank of India (SBI) organised a series of financial literacy camps in Bengaluru to promote women's financial empowerment.

On February 27, SBI Bengaluru, focused on reaching women across Karnataka by conducting over 126 camps, with participation from various groups, including Self-Help Group members, Anganwadi workers, agricultural workers, entrepreneurs, ASHAs, students, and homemakers.

The camps aimed to provide financial knowledge and resources to 5,429 women from different backgrounds.

IPS officer Vartika Katiyar shunted out days after complaint against Roopa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Vartika Katiyar, posted as Deputy Inspector General, Internal Security Division, who complained against her senior D. Roopa Moudgil, IGP, ISD, a few days ago, was transferred out of ISD on Monday.

Ms. Katiyar has now been posted as DIG and Additional Commandant General, Home Guards and Ex-Officio Additional Director, Civil Defence. This has raised eyebrows within the Karnataka State Police.

Ms. Katiyar had lodged a complaint with Chief Secretary Shalini Rajaneesh on February 20, alleging that on the instructions of Ms. Moudgil, a head constable and a Home Guard gained illegal entry into her office, planted documents related to other departments, took photographs and sent them to Ms. Moudgil on September 6. She also alleged that while this incident had come to her knowledge, many more may have happened at the behest of Ms. Moudgil. "If in future, any untoward incident happens in my office, D. Roopa will be directly responsible," she said in the letter. She also alleged that Ms. Moudgil had threatened to submit a negative annual report against her and target her when she would become the State police chief.

Earlier case
Recently, CM Siddaramaiah had tried to broker peace between Ms. Moudgil and IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri, who have been locked in a legal battle. The HC recently stayed proceedings against Ms. Sindhuri in a criminal defamation case filed by Ms. Moudgil.

Police sources said transferring only the complainant had not gone down well with many officers. However, sources also pointed out that Ms. Katiyar had bypassed the State police chief and directly complained to the Chief Secretary, breaking protocol.

Push for swift distribution of ID cards to street vendors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has directed officials on Monday to distribute identity cards to street vendors identified through a survey.

During a meeting at BBMP head office, he stated that approximately 27,000 street vendors have been identified across all eight zones of the city. Officials were instructed to finalise the format of the ID cards and ensure their prompt distribution. Additionally, he emphasised the need to allocate designated vending zones for these vendors to conduct business without disruption.

Mr. Giri Nath also reviewed the ongoing survey on school dropouts within BBMP limits. He urged officials to conduct the survey efficiently and ensure the swift identification of children who have discontinued their education.

Focus on preserving history on World Kannada Cinema Day

BIFFES

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Film enthusiasts at the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival at Orion Mall. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) celebrated 'World Kannada Cinema Day' by remembering *Sati Sulochana*, the first Kannada talkie.

On Monday, N. Nageshwar Rao and Madhukar Rao, grandchildren of the film's director Y.V. Rao, and Lakshmi Narasimha Shastri, grandson of the film's writer Bellave Narahari Shastri, were present at the event.

As the speakers highlighted the film's significance in the history of Kannada cinema, the focus fell on preserving Kannada classics. *Sati Sulochana*, based on Ramayana, is from the point of Sulochana, the wife of Indrajit and daughter-in-law of Ravana.

A film on 'Sati Sulochana'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To bring the film back on screen, Srujan Lokesh, under the banner of Lokesh Production, will make a movie on how *Sati Sulochana* was made, using the available trivia and information about the 1934 film. At a press conference, it was announced that Srujan is set to play Subbaiah Naidu while National-Award winning director P. Seshadri will direct the movie.

Sati Sulochana is a lost film with only some photographs of the movie remaining as the proof of its existence.

Subbaiah Naidu, a doyen of Kannada cinema, starred as the lead in the movie. Actor Srujan Lokesh, grandson of Subbaiah Naidu, said there must be more initiatives from the film industry to celebrate the movie. "Remembering *Sati Sulochana* on March 3 every year doesn't do justice to the film. Honouring Subbaiah Naidu through a statue or naming a road after him is the least the government can do to honour the rich history of the movie," he said.

Actor Kishore, brand ambassador of BIFFes, said it's important to respect historical milestones such as *Sati Sulochana* but the film industry must evolve to changing times, making the best and correct use of technology. "The movie was from the point of view of a woman. Today, we still talk about the impacts of a male-dominated industry. However, back then, artists stressed on representation of women in cinema," he said.

Four killed, four injured in accident on Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four people, including a two-year-old girl, were killed and four others injured when a speeding SUV collided head-on with a two-wheeler coming from the opposite direction near Kuppahalli in Bangarpet, Kolar district, on the yet to be formally inaugurated Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway on Sunday night.

Since the work on the Karnataka part of the expressway was almost complete, the police had allowed traffic movement to begin on it recently.

Since work on the Karnataka section of the expressway was almost complete, the police had allowed traffic on it a few days ago

The deceased have been identified as Mahesh, 45, the SUV driver, his relatives Ratnamma, 60, and Udvitha, 2, both seated in the front, and the bike rider. They were killed on the spot.

Four others in the car, from Mahesh's family – Sushmitha, Virutha, Sujatha and Sunil – were injured and are being treated at different hospitals in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF). The family resides at Kammasandra in KGF and was returning home after visiting Bengaluru, when the accident occurred.

The SUV was over speeding and lost control and crashed into the two-wheeler coming from the opposite direction. The impact of the accident was so high that the front position of the vehicle was damaged, the police said.

The Bangarapet police rushed to the spot and shifted the victims to the hospital.

Forensic report
"We suspect rash driving and overspeeding as reasons for the accident. Further investigation is on. A forensic report of the vehicles involved and the spot will reveal the exact cause," a senior police official said.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The funding received by Indian startups in February

1.65 In $ billion. This brings the total funding in FY25 (April-February) to $25.4 billion, spread across 2,200 rounds. The February figure marks a 19.5% uptick from $1.38 billion in total funding in January 2025. Entrepreneurs in Bengaluru secured funding worth $353 million. PTI

The area burned by forest fires near Ofunato in Japan

2,100 In hectares. More than 2,000 firefighters are battling Japan's biggest forest fire in three decades, as some 4,600 residents remain under an evacuation advisory. Firefighters from 14 Japanese regions were tackling the blaze. AFP

Asylum applications in EU, Norway and Switzerland last year

1.01 In million. The European Union's asylum agency on Monday released its annual report for the 27-nation bloc, plus Norway and Switzerland. The applications made were 11% lower than the previous year. Germany continued to be by far the main country sought by asylum seekers. AP

Number of dolphins in Indian rivers as per estimation report

6,327 The report was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday at the seventh meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). This effort involved surveying 28 rivers across eight States. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest numbers. PTI

Number of drones launched overnight by Russia on Ukraine

83 The Ukrainian military said on Monday that it shot down 46 of 83 drones launched by Russia overnight. Another 31 drones were "lost" and did not reach their targets, likely due to electronic warfare countermeasures, they added. REUTERS

COMPILED BY KUSHAL VARMA J.V.

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How is China's foreign policy structured?

Which are the two main decision-making bodies with respect to China's foreign policy? What is the role of the International Department of the Communist Party of China? Has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs been increasing in stature in China?

EXPLAINER

Shruti Jargad

The story so far:

During his visit to China in January, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had separate meetings with the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Sun Weidong, with Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is also a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and Liu Jianchao, head of the International Department of the CPC (IDCPC). While in India, there is a clear distinction between the party and the state, in the Chinese system, party and state bodies are intermeshed, with the CPC holding ultimate authority over the government.

Who are decision makers in China?

At the top of all political decision making is the Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC). While the PBSC sets the overall policy direction, it is the CPC Central Committee's Foreign Affairs Commission (FAC) that takes charge of policy coordination, inter-departmental communications and actual decision making. Little information is available about the membership and meetings of this body. However, it is known that the commission is headed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, with Li Qiang as its deputy head. Secretarial and administrative services to this commission are provided by the Office of the FAC. This office is headed by Wang Yi, who concurrently holds the position of China's Foreign Minister. The daily workings of the organisation is managed by Deputy Director, Guo Yezhou. This office is significant as it has the function of agenda setting, information gathering from line agencies, and making recommendations to top leaders.

What does the CPC's diplomatic arm look like?

While the above two are decision-making bodies, the main organisation engaged in the CPC's diplomatic outreach is the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC). Liu Jianchao, the IDCPC head, is a former foreign ministry spokesperson, diplomat and official in the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. As the head, Mr. Liu holds a provincial-ministerial level ranking, which technically puts him at par with ministers in the state council, but because of party-state hierarchy, he outranks state ministers.

The IDCPC has been conducting the party's diplomatic outreach to political parties across the ideological spectrum in more than 150 countries with an aim to supplement state to state relations, but also to increase the international legitimacy of the CPC. It is organised in regional bureaus like 'South and Southeast Asian Affairs' that conducts research on political conditions and maintains contact with major parties and organisations. Party-to-party diplomacy has been a key tool for the CPC in South Asia. The IDCPC has hosted delegations from India's major political parties too.

Another important party organisation in the realm of foreign policy is the United Front Work Department (UFWD), headed by Politburo member Shi Taifeng. The UFWD is tasked with managing relations with overseas Chinese diaspora as well as Hong Kong and Taiwan affairs.

It also oversees narratives around ethnic minorities in Tibet and Xinjiang and seeks to influence international messaging on China by reaching out to intellectuals in foreign countries.

Do they handle state-to-state diplomacy as well?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is a governmental body and is a constituent ministry under the state council. It is headed by the Foreign Minister, whose position has fluctuated in the party hierarchy over decades.

In the early years of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry was headed by the powerful Chinese premier, Zhou Enlai, but later saw a decline in power and influence. The MFA is primarily responsible for the implementation of foreign policy decisions through its bureaucratic and diplomatic corps. Though considered to be at the 'middle level' in terms of hierarchy – with little power to give a unique perspective on foreign policy issues – it is the official interface of the Chinese state with the rest of the world. Through its statements and press releases, it communicates China's position on various issues related to foreign policy, security, domestic politics, etc. Furthermore, research shows that since coming to power, Xi Jinping has taken a keen interest in foreign affairs, increasing the stature of the MFA. He is also said to regularly summon foreign service bureaucrats and serving ambassadors for direct instructions, an indication of the 'top level design' in foreign policy.

There are other organisations like the National Security Commission, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, National People's Congress, etc. that also have a diplomatic component. Based on this, it can be concluded that China has quite a distinct foreign policy apparatus that requires engagement at multiple levels involving both party and state actors. It also necessitates that Indian policymakers pay special attention to the Chinese Communist Party and its various official formulations, as these are fundamental in setting state policies.

Shruti Jargad is a research analyst at Centre for Social and Economic Progress

Top level design

While in India, there is a clear distinction between the party and the state, in the Chinese system, party and state bodies are intermeshed, with the Communist Party of China holding authority over the government

PARTY ORGANISATION	FUNCTION	LEADER
Politburo Standing Committee	Overall policy direction	Xi Jinping
Foreign Affairs Commission (FAC)	Decision making, inter departmental coordination	Head: Xi Jinping Deputy: Li Qiang
Office of the FAC	Secretarial co-ordination, agenda setting, research	Director: Wang Yi Deputy: Guo Yezhou
International Department of the CPC	Party-to-party diplomacy, research	Department Head: Liu Jianchao
United Front Work Department	Overseas Chinese, Taiwan, Hong Kong, ethnic minority affairs	Department Head: Shi Taifeng

THE GIST

- While the PBSC sets the overall policy direction, it is the CPC Central Committee's Foreign Affairs Commission (FAC) that takes charge of policy coordination, inter-departmental communications and actual decision making.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is a governmental body and is a constituent ministry under the state council. It is headed by the Foreign Minister.
- There are other organisations like the National Security Commission, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, National People's Congress, etc. that also have a diplomatic component.

Why is the Parandur airport project facing opposition?

When was the idea of a second airport for Chennai first floated? Why are local residents and environmentalists against the project? What is the road ahead?

Sunitha Sekar

The story so far:

More than three years after its announcement, the second airport project for Chennai at Parandur is finally inching closer to its final approval. The Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu who visited Chennai on February 27, said that the in-principle approval is likely to be accorded within the next two weeks. However, villagers, farmers and environmentalists have been persistently opposing the project for last three years.

Does Chennai need a second airport?

A proposal to construct a new international airport for Chennai city was floated first in 1998. In the same year, then Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi wrote to the Prime Minister seeking to speed up the proposal for building a second airport in the city. Subsequently, a site near the south of Meenambakkam was identified and the State government mulled on constructing it under the Build-Own-Operate and Transfer (BOOT) concept. In 1999, the city got close to getting the airport as the Centre approved the international airport proposal at ₹2,000 crore. In the next couple of years, the State government went on to earmark 1,457.5 acres of land just north of the present airport at Meenambakkam. Some changes occurred and by 2007, a massive airport over 4,820 acres of land with four runways was planned at Sriperumbudur. But the project failed to take off.

Now, the Tamil Nadu government has finally decided to catch up on lost time and in 2022, Parandur was chosen as the site for Chennai's second airport. The ₹29,144 crore Parandur airport will come up in four phases with three terminals and two parallel runways over 2,172.73 hectares of land and will have a capacity of handling 100 million passengers.

Why is there opposition?

As soon as the project was announced, a section of the population was disappointed at the government for choosing a site replete with several waterbodies, and the threat it could pose for the environment. Residents of 13 villages who will be displaced due to the project and farmers staring at giving up their lands and an uncertain future started protests almost immediately. Residents of one of the villages, Ekanapuram, which will be severely affected by the project, resolutely continue to hold protests every evening, till today, recording over 950 days of protest. Environmentalists have strongly advised against implementing the project as 26.54% of the site comprises wetlands. Experts pointed out how Chennai city, which has grappled with floods on multiple occasions, could bear a serious brunt of inundation should this project become a reality. The Kamban canal in the Parandur area connects numerous water bodies and disturbing its natural course could cause a serious cascading effect on the city during the monsoon.

Due to the protests and increasing criticism, the Tamil Nadu government constituted a committee and a hydrogeological report was submitted. This report suggests ways and means to mitigate flooding. However, the report has been kept confidential and not been made public by the government as yet, adding to the concerns.

What is the status of the airport now?

Land acquisition for the project and a series of surveys mandated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are underway now. But one of the major challenges that lies ahead for this project is receiving the environmental clearance due to the presence of vast amounts of wetlands in the site. If the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited receives this approval by the end of this year or early next year, then, post land acquisition, the construction of the terminals could start. The government looks to complete the first phase and have the terminal up and running before the end of 2028.

THE GIST

- A proposal to construct a new international airport for Chennai city was floated first in 1998. The Tamil Nadu government has finally decided to catch up on lost time and in 2022, Parandur was chosen as the site for Chennai's second airport.
- As soon as the project was announced, a section of the population was disappointed at the government for choosing a site replete with several waterbodies, and the threat it could pose for the environment.
- Land acquisition for the project and a series of surveys mandated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are underway now.

From Page One

‘State has proved wrong many predictions on guarantee schemes’

Noting that farmers had got a good harvest due to the absence of heavy rains and drought, Mr. Gehlot said agricultural production was expected to touch 149 lakh tonnes in the kharif and rabi seasons. The number of suicides among farmer families in the State had reduced significantly owing to the welfare programmes, he said.

On welfare schemes

Emphasising that over ₹90,000 crore was being spent annually on welfare programmes, Mr. Gehlot said over 1.25 crore families were benefiting from direct cash transfer schemes, subsidies, and incentives provided by various departments.

Comprehensive and effective efforts were being made to make Karnataka a ₹1 trillion economy. The State was spending 15.01% of its 2024-25 Budget on capital expenditure, he said.

The State’s revenue collection in the first three quarters of the financial year 2024-25 reached ₹1,81,908 crore. While revenue receipts had grown by 13%, GST collection had grown by 12% year-on-year till the end of December 2024.

INBRIEF

Condolences paid to ex-PM and others in legislature

Members of the Legislative Assembly on Monday condoled the death of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former MLAs M. Srinivas and Jayavani Manche Gowda, Kannada writer Na. D’Souza, film director Shyam Benegal, and folk artist Sukri Bommagowda. The entire House observed a minute’s silence. Likewise in the Legislative Council, members condoled the deaths.

Paying rich tributes to the former Prime Minister, Congress member B.K. Hariprasad said the Legislative Council should pass a resolution urging the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna on him. Other Congress members, including Saleem Ahmed and Ivan D’Souza, seconded Mr. Hariprasad’s request and urged chairman Basavaraj Horatti to take it up in the Council.

Ravikumar appointed Opposition Chief Whip

Senior BJP leader N. Ravikumar has been appointed the Opposition Chief Whip in the Legislative Council. Following a letter pertaining to the appointment by Chalavadi Narayanswamy, Leader of Opposition in the Council, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti made the announcement in the House on Monday.

While his colleagues in the House welcomed his appointment, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa congratulated him.

Moily’s remark stirs up leadership issue again

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar says he will comply with directions of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and not talk about power sharing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said that he will comply with the directions of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and not talk about power sharing in Karnataka.

He was replying to a question on veteran Congressman and former Chief Minister M. Veerappa Moily’s reported statement that no one could stop Mr. Shivakumar from becoming the Chief Minister.

“Mr. Moily has expressed his personal opinion. I will not talk about it; there is no need for it,” Mr. Shivakumar said.

Mr. Moily, speaking in Karkala recently, reportedly said that it was a matter of time before Mr. Shivakumar became the Chief Minister, and ”nobody can stop it.”

He had further told Mr. Shivakumar, who was also on the dais, “You should not speak on the issue... It is a settled matter.”

When his response was sought on the speculation, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the whole thing was left to the decision of the high command. “It is not important what Mr. Moily says or what someone else says. The high command will decide... I will go by the high command’s directions.”

Reacting to Mr. Moily’s statement, Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries M.B. Patil said it was up to the All India Congress Committee (AICC) now to look at the issue and act. IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge reiterated that the Chief Minister’s post was “not vacant.”

A couple of months ago, Mr. Kharge sternly warned Ministers and legislators of the Congress not to make statements regarding sharing of power between Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar.

> It is not important what Mr. [Veerappa] Moily says or what someone else says. The high command will decide
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

‘DKS remarks aimed at his political detractors’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Monday said that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar’s recent remarks on “tightening the nuts and bolts” were actually aimed at his political detractors within the Congress rather than the film industry. “These remarks are being seen as a warning to those in the party who are trying to thwart his chances of becoming the Chief Minister,” Mr. Vijayendra told presspersons in Bengaluru.

Mr. Vijayendra reiterated that “swift and important developments” were bound to take place in the government in the coming days.

Congress MLA Basavaraju V. Shivaganga on Sunday said that Mr. Shivakumar will become the Chief Minister before December.

There has been speculation about a “formula” being worked out by the central leaders on sharing of power between Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar, with Ministers and legislators often adding fuel to fire.

BJP: Governor’s speech was lacklustre and full of lies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP and JD(S) leaders taking out a protest march to the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Describing Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot’s address to the joint session of the legislature on Monday as the “most lacklustre” one, the BJP accused the government of trying to mislead people by lying about the State’s development through it.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the Congress government had tried to project itself as a herald of development in the Governor’s speech, though development works had come to a standstill in the State.

“On one hand, this government takes away the powers of the Governor (with respect to universities) and targets him continuously. But on the other, it has told lies about its performance through his speech,” he remarked.

“There is neither development nor welfare in the State and its financial condition has deteriorated. Only the pockets of the Congress leaders are getting filled up,” Mr. Ashok alleged.

“While the government says medical treatment is affordable, it has actually increased the service charges in government hospitals. While it says it is committed to the welfare of children, the State is actually witnessing a series of maternal and infant deaths. Similarly, contrary to its claims of giving emphasis for development of SC/ST communities, ₹187 crore has been siphoned off from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited and funds meant for Dalits welfare have been diverted for the guarantees schemes,” he alleged.

Protest march

Earlier, BJP and JD(S) legislators took out a protest march from the Legislators’ Home to the Vidhana Soudha before the commencement of the session, against what they called “insulting of Governor” by the Congress government.

Registrars will have to cancel old birth certificates with errors while issuing new ones: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to issue appropriate orders to Registrars of Births and Deaths to cancel the earlier birth certificate while issuing a new one after correcting errors.

The court also said that the registrars would have to give an endorsement to the applicants stating that the earlier certificate had been cancelled. The necessary details about corrections in the birth certificate and cancellation of the earlier certificate would also have to be entered in the e-janma portal, the court said.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj Issued the directions while allowing a petition filed by Syeda Afifa Aymehn of Hosapete in Vijayanagara district.

The petitioner was born in March, 1993, and all her educational certificates, Aadhaar, passport, etc. contained the correct date of birth. However, she belatedly noticed that in her birth certificate it was wrongly mentioned as April, 1993.

Following this, she initiated proceedings in 2020 before a civil court, which issued a direction to the registrar to correct the error in her birth certificate. This resulted in two birth certificates in her possession.

Later, when she submitted these birth certificates for carrying out a correction in her passport, the authorities sought clarification on the two different dates of birth. Her plea for clarification was negatived by the registrar of births by asking her to approach the competent court for necessary directions.

However, the court termed this approach of the registrar in Vijayanagara district as ‘driving the petitioner to the court in an unnecessary litigation’ by issuing two birth certificates.

The registrar ought to have cancelled the earlier birth certificate while issuing a new certificate, the court said.

The court also directed the registrar to cancel her birth certificate with the wrong date of birth and issue an endorsement to her in this regard.

Gram panchayats in State demand higher MSP for organic produce

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Representatives from around 80 gram panchayats in Karnataka have come up with a declaration demanding governmental measures to help address climate challenges and adopt sustainable practices.

The suggestions in the nine-point declaration include higher MSP for organically grown farm produce, linking the Carbon Credit Programme with gram panchayats that focus on reforestation, separate funds to manage climate adversities, installation of biomass-to-biochar conversion units in gram panchayats, and developing climate-resilient agricultural models under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme action plans.

The declaration was drafted at a two-day workshop organised by Pipal Tree and Ramakrishna Hegde Chair for Decentralization and Development at the Institute for Social and Economic Change in Bengaluru.

Gram Panchayat members from Bengaluru Rural, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Belagavi, Haveri, Vijayapura, Kolar, Chickballapur, and Mangaluru participated in the workshop.

Gram panchayat members at a workshop organised by Pipal Tree and Ramakrishna Hegde Chair for Decentralization and Development in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> We feel that panchayats, being the units functioning at the grassroot level, could play an important role in climate action. But so far, the level of awareness among panchayats on climate is very low
>
> **SIDDHARTHA,** Founder of Pipal Tree

The organisers of the event told *The Hindu* that the declaration would be submitted to the government along with a proposal to develop model villages in each of the ten agro-climatic zones of Karnataka.

“We feel that panchayats, being the units functioning at the grassroot level, could play an important role in climate action. But so far, the level of awareness among panchayats on climate is very low,” Siddhartha, founder of Pipal Tree, told *The Hindu*.

The other demands included bringing the biodiversity management committees (BMC) under the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993, strengthening the BMCs at the gram panchayat level by providing resources and financial support, organising workshops to preserve cultures linked to biodiversity conservation and rural community livelihoods, establishing a climate action committees within gram panchayat jurisdiction to analyse and provide solutions for losses due to climate change, and making the ‘OK Card’ system mandatory for all works carried out under gram panchayats.

“GPs can embrace new responsibilities in mitigating climate change, and help improve local ecology, and also earn new incomes that enhance their capacity to do good at local levels,” said Ramakrishna Hegde Chair professor Chandan Gowda.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Jayanta Mallick (68), Retired Senior Asst. Editor, The Hindu Businessline Kolkata passed away on 03.03.02025. Address: 82 B, Sarsuna Main Road, Matrineer, Flat A5, Kolkata -700061. Contact : 99039 35273.

REMEMBRANCE

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE

Sri. K.Kuppuswamy Naidu
Founder & Managing Director
Born: 13-03-1925 Died: 04-03-2007
Your pioneering effort & fighting spirit will always remain our guiding force
R.Vijay Krishna
S/o K.Rajaiah, Founder Director
Chamundesware Studio & Lab. Pvt. Ltd.
Family, Grandsons & Loyal Workers

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No. KSDB/Comm/CE/AES&PMC-Empanelment-IFT/2024-25/3306 Dated : 25.02.2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) Bangalore invites Request for **Technical proposals through KPP Portal for Empanelment of Consultants for providing Architectural Engineering Services and Project management consultancy from eligible Consultants.** The details are available on the KSDB website: **https://karnataka.gov.in/ksdb**

Calendar of Events	
Time and Date of Pre Bid Conference / Meeting	18.03.2025 at 03:00 PM
Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders in Portal	29.03.2025 at 05:30 PM
Time and Date of Opening of RFP Documents	01.04.2025 at 11:00 AM
Time and Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated to technically qualified PMC consultant
Place of Pre-Proposal Conference and Opening of RFP Documents	Office of the Chief Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board, #55, 1st Floor Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020 Phone: +8884492377 Email id:ksdbce@gmail.com Web Site: www.ksdb.karnataka.gov.in

If there are any changes to the above notification it will be published in Website KSDB / KPP Portal only. Tender documents are available on the website: **https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tender form fees & EMD details are available on the e-procurement portal. EMD and tender processing fees shall be paid using e-procurement payment modes only. Tender application must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the works and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of tender date.

Sd/- Chief Engineer,
Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/JA/5412/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client intends to enter into various transactions with respect to the properties, more fully set out in the schedule given herein below and collectively referred as the "Schedule Property", from its respective owners. Any person/s whomsoever having any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner or objecting to such sale in favour of our client should write to the undersigned within Fourteen (14) days of issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing their rights with regard to the Schedule Property or portion thereof. If no claims or objections are received within the stipulated time, then it shall be deemed that the property is free from any acts of encumbrances or claims whatsoever of any nature with regard to the Schedule Property and our client shall proceed with completion of such transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the properties with such extents as detailed below, all situated at Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded and bounded as follows:

Survey No.	Extent Acres	Guntas	Karab Land	Owners Name	Boundaries East	West	North	South
104/1	---	9.5	---	CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA Son of Late Chikkanna & Family	Land bearing Survey No.104/1 allotted to the share of Sri. N Kiran	Land bearing Survey No. 111/2 and 112	Land bearing Survey No. 104/2	Road along with Liberty acres layout
111/2	---	09	---		Land bearing Survey No.104/1	Land bearing Survey No. 113 and 81	Land bearing Survey No. 111/1	Road along with Liberty acres layout
112	---	27	---					
113	---	12	02		Land bearing Survey No.113 allotted to the share of Sri. C. Krishnappa	Land bearing Survey No.81	Private Property	Land bearing Survey No.112
111/1	---	04	---	MRS. HARIYAMMA wife of Sri. C Krishnappa & Family	Remaining Land bearing Survey No.104/2	Land bearing Survey No.113	Remaining Land bearing Survey No.111/1.	Land bearing Survey No.111/2
104/2	---	01	---	Mr. C. KRISHNAPPA Son of Late Chikkanna & Family	Remaining Land bearing Survey No.104/2	Land bearing Survey No. 111/1	Remaining Land bearing Survey No.104/2.	Land bearing Survey No.104/1
113	---	10	---		Land bearing Survey No.111/1 and 112	Remaining Land bearing Survey No.113	Private Property	Land bearing Survey No.112

Date : 03-03-2025
Place: Bangalore.

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CACHE

AP

The implications of treating Virtual Digital Assets as taxable properties

For the first time in India, the Income Tax Bill, 2025 explicitly treats VDAs as property and capital assets. By defining them as such, India gains the ability to tax, regulate, and seize crypto assets when necessary, preventing their misuse for illicit financial activities

Sanhita Chauriha

As digital economies expand and blockchain technology reshapes global finance, governments worldwide are grappling with the classification, regulation and taxation of Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs). India's Income Tax Bill, 2025 introduces a comprehensive legal framework for VDAs defined in Section 2(111), aligning the country's tax structure with global precedents. This move is crucial, considering how major economies like the U.K., the U.S., Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and the UAE have approached VDAs – primarily as property or securities.

VDAs as property and capital assets

For the first time in India, the Income Tax Bill, 2025 explicitly treats VDAs as property (Section 92 (5)(f)) and capital assets. This classification has far-reaching consequences in terms of taxation, compliance, and legal recognition. The bill categorically states that VDAs, which include crypto assets, Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), and similar digital assets, should be considered property. This move aligns India with global practices, where digital assets are either classified as securities (like in the U.S.) or property (like in the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand).

VDAs are classified as capital assets under Section 76(1). This means that any gains arising from their sale, transfer, or exchange will be taxed under capital gains provisions, similar to real estate, stocks, and bonds. For example, if an individual purchases Bitcoin at ₹10 lakh and sells it for ₹20 lakh, the ₹10 lakh profit will be subject to capital gains tax – either short-term or long-term, depending on the holding period. By treating VDAs as capital assets, the government ensures that transactions are subject to standard asset taxation principles, preventing their misuse as unregulated financial instruments. This classification is similar to the U.K. policy, where HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) recognises crypto assets as property for tax purposes, subjecting them to the Capital Gains Tax (CGT).

Likewise, New Zealand's Inland Revenue Department also treats crypto assets as property, making them subject to income tax on trades.

Continuing the precedent set in 2022, the bill imposes a 30% tax on income from VDA transfers.

Unlike traditional capital assets, no deductions (other than the cost of acquisition) are allowed. This means that expenses related to mining, transaction fees, platform commissions, and gas fees cannot be deducted when calculating taxable income. For instance, if an investor buys Ethereum for ₹5 lakh and sells it for ₹7 lakh, the ₹2 lakh profit is taxed at a flat 30% – with no relief for transaction costs. This tax treatment is harsher than that in the UAE, where the Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (VARA) allows businesses and individuals to hold and trade VDAs under regulated conditions, with 0% personal income tax on gains in certain cases. Similar to previous amendments, Section 393 states a 1% TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) on transfers of VDAs. This applies even in peer-to-peer (P2P) transactions and ensures that the government tracks large crypto transactions. The threshold for TDS exemption is ₹50,000 for small traders and ₹10,000 for others.

On the need to report

Another crucial provision is the inclusion of VDAs in undisclosed income taxation and asset seizure regulations. Section 301 states that if an individual fails to report VDA holdings in their tax filings, they can be classified as undisclosed income and taxed accordingly. Furthermore, Section 524(1) allows tax authorities to seize VDAs during investigations or tax raids, similar to how cash, gold, or real estate is confiscated in cases of tax evasion. This aligns with global enforcement trends. The U.K. High Court has ruled that crypto assets can be considered property, allowing courts to freeze or seize them in legal disputes. By treating VDAs as property for seizure purposes, India ensures that crypto-assets do not remain a shadow asset class, immune from regulatory oversight.

Under Section 509, any entity dealing in crypto assets – including exchanges, wallet providers, and even individual traders – is required to report transactions in a prescribed format. This provision mandates compliance from platforms facilitating crypto trades, making it harder to launder money through digital assets. The bill also mandates that VDAs be included in Annual Information Statements (AIS), ensuring that all crypto transactions are automatically recorded in taxpayers' financial profiles.

A global standard

India's decision to treat VDAs as property and capital assets is a step towards aligning with international legal standards. The United States SEC classifies many crypto assets as securities, bringing them under financial market regulations. This shift is critical for ensuring that VDAs do not exist in a legal grey area. By defining them as property, India gains the ability to tax, regulate, and seize crypto assets when necessary, preventing their misuse for illicit financial activities. However, it is crucial to recognise that despite the developments in the taxonomy and taxation of VDAs, there remains a lack of a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework.

The current legal approach operates in silos, addressing taxonomy and taxation but leaving significant gaps in areas such as investor protection, market regulation, enforcement mechanisms, and a lack of standard guidelines. The treatment of VDAs extends far beyond – it requires a cohesive policy framework that integrates financial regulations, consumer rights, and technological advancements to ensure a balanced and secure digital asset ecosystem.

Sanhita Chauriha is a Technology Lawyer. Views are personal

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"What is the meaning of 'taciturn'?"
"Mr. P. V Narasimha Rao."
"Mr. Rao?"
"Yes. The word 'taciturn' means 'silent'. A person who is habitually silent is said to be taciturn. The Latin verb 'taceo' means 'to be silent'. A taciturn person is silent, quiet, tight-lipped."
"So PVN is taciturn. What is the opposite of 'taciturn'?"
"A garrulous person is a highly talkative person. He/she is a cascade talker. He/she is loquacious. But what they say may be cacophony."
"What is cacophony?"
" 'Cacophony' is something harsh-sounding. It is from Greek "kakos" bad and 'phone' sound. The opposite of this is 'euphony', pleasant sound. Some verses are cacophonous and a few are euphonious."
"What is an egregious lie?"
" 'Egregious' means 'conspicuously bad'. The latin root 'greg' means 'herd'. You see it in words like 'gregarious', 'congregation'. An egregious lie is one that stands from the herd, it is prominent. The word always carries a derogatory connotation."
"Is it true of the word "inveterate" also?"
"Yes. 'Inveterate' is from Latin 'vetus', old. The word 'veteran' is from this. An inveterate liar is one who has been lying for a long time. He is a 'professional' liar. He has grown old with the habit. The word is never used with anything you like or admire. It always has a derogatory connotation."
"Is there any difference in pronunciation between 'price' and 'prize'?"
"Yes. The 'c' in 'price' is pronounced 's' and the 'z' in 'prize' is pronounced 'z'."

Published in The Hindu on August 22, 1995

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The 97th Academy Awards were presented at the Dolby Theatre in California on Sunday. A quiz on Academy Award winners

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Name the only person to win consecutive awards for direction in the 21st century.

QUESTION 2
Name the film which holds a joint record for most nominations, and winning six awards, but did not win Best Picture.

QUESTION 3
This person wrote, produced, directed, and edited a movie which won in all four categories. Name the person who is the only one to do so.

QUESTION 4
Which is the first non-English feature film to win Best Picture?

QUESTION 5
Name the first non-English film to win Best Animated Feature.

Visual question:
The director of this film was nominated multiple times, for directing feature films, animated films and for screenplay, throughout his career. However, he won his only award for a live action short film. Who is he?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Number of languages recognised under the Eighth Schedule. This language has a country's name in it. **Ans: 22; Nepali.**
2. This is common to Bodo, Dogri, Kashmiri, Maithili, Santali and Sindhi. **Ans: They do not have a script of their own and are written using borrowed scripts**
3. These two languages have 'Classical' status. **Ans: Sanskrit and Odia**
4. This language has the second-highest number of native speakers after Hindi. **Ans: Bengali**
5. Tulsidas' *Ramcharitmanas* was written in this language. **Ans: Awadhi**
6. This Indian language has a whopping 247 characters. **Ans: Tamil**
7. Meghalaya's Kongthong village has fascinated linguists for this reason. **Ans: For generations, villagers have communicated with each other using whistled identities instead of names!**
Visual: Name this Englishman. **Ans: James Prinsep**
Early Bird: Anjani Kumar Srivastava

Word of the day

Expurgate:
edit by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate

Synonyms: bowdlerise, castrate, shorten

Usage: *It was decided to expurgate the existing document, which had been banned in different countries, and release it.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/expurgatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɛks.pɚ.geɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

‘As international alliances get challenged, the world is keen to see where India stands’

People are watching whether India is aligning with Russia or going to get closer to America, or why India doesn’t condemn Russia for the Ukraine war, says BBC’s royal correspondent Jonny Dymond

INTERVIEW

Jonny Dymond

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

BBC World Questions in Poland. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru is the latest destination for BBC World Questions, a series of monthly international debate programmes recorded on locations around the world with a live audience. The programme that will be recorded on March 4, 2025, at the Bengaluru International Centre is expected to witness conversations around challenges of economic growth, public services, workers’ rights, A.I., and the environment.

The programme is chaired by Jonny Dymond, who is also the royal correspondent at the BBC. Dymond and Helen Towner, the producer of the show, share with *The Hindu* what they expect to see at the Bengaluru edition of the programme, what the role of a royal correspondent entails and thoughts on the changing international dynamics.

What is the ‘behind the scenes’ of BBC World Questions programme like?

Jonny Dymond: As far as choosing a place, the fundamental is that it has to be a democracy. There are obviously degrees of democracy and democratic freedom. But it needs to have a relatively free press, a relatively fair judiciary and democratic elections. And then there is the discussion of representing the world fairly. We go to quite a lot of small countries, largely, because their voice is not heard as much around the world as that of bigger countries.

The programme itself has about a million moving parts. It’s really important to make sure there’s proper balance across the panel.

Jonny Dymond

The critical part of the show, the thing which makes it different from a lot of other debate programmes, is the audience. We record with a live audience and the questions come from the audience. They come in, write out their questions, and there’s a frantic hour or so in our production office when hundreds of questions pour in. We line them all up in terms of topics and we try and do a fair representation. We will choose the questions, but the questions always come from the audience. That is when you get some idea of the real concerns of the country.

We are well aware that our audience is not a perfect cross representation of a country. People have to speak and understand English because we carry the debates in English. That means it’s going to be a certain group of people. And obviously we do it in cities, generally in capital cities. But you get some idea of the concerns of a country.

I like to think that getting questions from the audience makes it different. Obviously, the fact that we’re coming in from the outside, looking in from the outside, and broadcasting around the world will give it a different flavour as well.

There are two things that are really interesting about the questions coming from the audience. One is the questions that bind the world together. Questions about the environment, cost of living, law and order, migration...they come up time and time again, wherever you are.

What you don’t get is amazing too. You’ll go to a country with your great preconceptions. And then nothing happens. It’s all about remembering that you’re not as clever as you thought you were. But it’s really refreshing.

Your first programme in India was in Delhi in 2018. When you come to Bengaluru, do you have a different set of expectations?

Jonny Dymond: I wouldn’t prejudge. I am very much aware that India is many many different kinds of places. I’m also aware that Bengaluru is part of the new and rising high-tech India. I would be surprised if we didn’t get some different questions. I would also be surprised if we didn’t get some of the same questions. The world is actually more unified by its concerns than it is divided.

Helen Towner: I think the south is quite different to the north. In Delhi, there were questions about pollution, jobs and fake news. I’m sure two of those might come up. I hope that there will be a young audience. Things have moved on since 2018 when we were in Delhi. You might get questions about artificial intelligence, jobs in the IT sector, quality of those jobs...

But we’re also thinking about what is of interest to the global audience. So, we’re going to try and have a mixture of local issues, hopefully to give a sense of place where we are.

What is it like to be the royal correspondent at BBC?

Jonny Dymond: It is the strangest job I have ever done at BBC. The institution is pretty curious. It’s meant to be strange, different, it’s not meant to be the ‘everyday.’

When I started the job in late 2017, I thought of it as a strange institution, and an even stranger job. I’ve been extraordinarily fortunate because it’s been amazingly busy with very high-profile things, from Harry and Meghan getting

married and then leaving the royal family, and Prince Andrew being embroiled in terrible scandal, and the deaths and the coronation... There is no story that is so interesting to the outside world about Britain than royalty. It has an amazing purchase on people’s minds.

It is not a universally loved institution. But a significant proportion of the population embraces the story, the institution, the events around it... And in a country that is very heterogenised and diverse it is a unifying story and a unifying institution.

To be a royal correspondent of the BBC at the time of the death of her late majesty was an extraordinary thing and extraordinary privilege as well, but to see up close these hundreds of thousands of people simply wanting to be there and be close to these events was amazing. It’s an incredible role, one which has been much more satisfying than I thought it would be when I started it.

But is there a growing criticism against the institution in terms of the wealth it holds, the cost to maintain the monarchy, and the whole idea of a hereditary head of state?

Jonny Dymond: If you look at the opinion polls, you’ve got around a solid 20% or 25% who would like the monarchy abolished. But critically, they don’t quite say what would go in its place. I would say it is an issue of national narrative, of ripping out 1000 years of history. Yes, there are complaints about wealth, hereditary, legal privileges, ceremonies and so on.

But having one without the other is quite tricky. There is a lot of misunderstanding about the wealth, about what is public and what is private, what the public money pays for. I’m not defending it. Quite often royal correspondents end up sounding as if they are defending the monarchy because they know the details of how the money is spent. It’s still a significant sum, about 85 million pounds a year.

No doubt that it is not universally worshipped. It struggles for relevance and understanding against all the other things that people are interested in. But one would think the new king has brought something different to the job, in particular an understanding of the diversity of Britain, as someone who really gets the fact that Britain is a very, very diverse nation. So, we’ll wait and see. The monarchy has managed to survive a 1,000 years. I wouldn’t bet against it.

You also worked as BBC’s foreign correspondent. How do you evaluate the new dynamics shaping up in international relations in the backdrop of the Ukraine war and the Trump-Zelensky fiasco at the White House, following which European leaders including Starmer offered ‘full backing’ to the Ukrainian President?

It is difficult to remember such challenging times, a time when our understanding of international alliances was so heavily challenged. When you look back at the last enormous chasm which was probably the invasion of Iraq by the U.S. and allied forces, even that didn’t really have the same feeling of realignment that is going on now.

What I think is particularly interesting is where Indias see itself as all these changes occur. Lots of people are watching whether India is aligning with Russia or going to get closer to America or why India doesn’t condemn Russia for the Ukraine war. Maybe the collapse of the Soviet Union was the last time it was this serious. This period is fascinating in general. But in particular to be in India at this time and to find out what Indian leaders think is really really interesting.

Your views on how India-U.K. relations would shape in the coming days with the Keir Starmer government at the helm in U.K.

All I can really say is I hope it is a strong and improving relationship for obvious historical reasons. There are enormous difficulties. There is a lot of very difficult history between the two countries. As someone brought up in a different time - 20-30 years after the second world war - to learn about the real history and then to see Indian businessmen coming and buying up British companies and arguably making them better is amazing. To come to Bengaluru and see this place of ferment is amazing too.

Three-day dance festival from Friday

Vyjayanthi Kashi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Gayana Samaja will present a three-day dance festival from Friday, March 7, to Sunday, March 9.

The event features *Samarpan*, Kuchipudi dance by Vyjayanthi Kashi and group, on March 7. *Dakshinottaram*, Kathak and Bharatanrityam duet by Rohini Prabhath and Medhavini Varakhedi, will be on March 8.

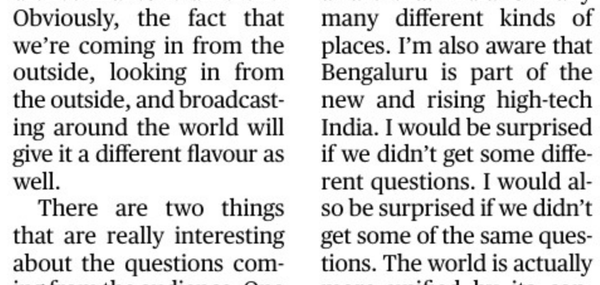
The event will conclude with *Dasa Sreshta Purandara,* a thematic production on the life of Sri Purandara Dasa by Raksha Karthik and her disciples on March 9.

The programme will be held daily at 6.30 p.m. at Bangalore Gayana Samaja, K.R. Road.

Global survey shows most people over 50 in India unaware of shingles disease, despite being at risk

Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU


Shingles is a painful disease that can have serious and long-lasting complications. AFP

A new global survey shows that 56.6% of Indian participants aged 50 and above know little to nothing about shingles, although more than 90% of adults above 50 years have this virus in their body and are vulnerable.

Globally, only 44% of respondents had some familiarity with shingles. Released at the start of Shingles Awareness Week (February 24 - March 2, 2025), the survey findings highlight limited awareness of age-related health risks, particularly among individuals with pre-existing health conditions.

Conducted by Ipsos, on behalf of GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a global healthcare company, the global online research involved 8,400 adults aged between 50 years and 60 years, including 500 respondents from India.

In India, 61% of survey participants reported living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, cardiovascular disease or chronic kidney disease. However, only 49.8% express significant concern about developing shingles. On a global level, 54% of participants had chronic conditions, but only 13% expressed significant concern about shingles.

Chickenpox virus

Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus (VZV), the same virus that causes chickenpox. Shingles is a painful disease that can have serious and long-lasting complications. By age 50, most adults will have the VZV dormant in their nervous system, and may reactivate with advancing age. Ansar Ahmed, Karnataka’s Project Director, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), said as people age, the strength of the immune response to infection decreases, increasing the risk of developing shingles.

“Shingles typically present as a rash, with painful blisters across the chest, abdomen or face. The pain is often described as aching, burning, stabbing or shock-like. Following the rash, a person can also experience post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN), a long-lasting nerve pain that can last weeks or months and can occasionally persist for several years. PHN is the most common complication of shingles, occurring in 5-30% of all shingles cases depending on the individual’s age,” he said.

“While there is no data available on shingles in the State, as many 463 cases of chickenpox have been reported in Karnataka from January till February 27 this year. Last year, the State had reported 1,607 chickenpox cases,” Dr. Ahmed said.

Weak immune system

Shireen Furtado, Senior Consultant - Medical and Cosmetic Dermatology at Aster CMI Hospital in Bengaluru, said shingles rash often flares up as blisters, very similar to chickenpox and can happen in a linear distribution on one side of the body. “While anyone who has had chickenpox can get shingles, it becomes more common as one gets aged, especially after 50. Several factors can increase the risk of developing shingles, including a weakened immune system, which can be caused by chronic health conditions,” she said.

Nidhin Mohan, Consultant - Internal Medicine at Narayana Health City in Bengaluru, said there is a gradual increase in shingles cases, particularly among people aged over 50 years and those with conditions like diabetes or autoimmune disorders. “The city’s high-stress work culture, erratic sleep patterns, and rising cases of lifestyle-related immunosuppression are key factors contributing to this trend,” he said.

“Additionally, Bengaluru’s climate—with fluctuating temperatures and high humidity—can trigger viral reactivation in susceptible individuals. In the past year, we have also observed cases among younger adults, especially IT professionals and those with high-stress jobs, suggesting that chronic stress and inadequate rest may be accelerating shingles onset,” he added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 4, 1975

Lathi-charge on Students in Dharwar

Bangalore, March 3: The lathi-charge on a group of students at the All Karnataka Students’ Conference at Dharwar yesterday, was raised in both Houses of the Karnataka legislature to-day.

The issue was raised in the Legislative Council in the form of a notice of an adjournment motion tabled by Mr. A. K. Subbaiah (JS) who alleged that the police had acted in a high-handed manner by “mercilessly” beating up slogan-shouting students. Calling the police action “atrocious” he said the police seemed to have acted in a “pre-planned and pre-meditated manner.” The press reports had highlighted the “police excess”, he said.

He said the conference was not convened by students but by politically-motivated persons.

Misuse of Funds for Housing Scheme

Bangalore, March 3: The Leader of the Jan Sangh Group in the Karnataka Legislature Council, Mr. A. K. Subbaiah alleged in the House to-day that there was a large scale misuse of funds and irregularities in the Janatha Housing Scheme launched by the Government and demanded an enquiry into it.

Speaking on the general discussion on the budget, Mr. Subbaiah said that land tribunals constituted by the Government were filled by henchmen of the Government and Congress legislators and that they would not be able to settle disputes, which would arise following the implementation of land reforms, even after 10 years.

Alive and buzzing

Close to a year after the implementation of the Insect Cafe at Lalbagh, experts discuss its impact on the environment

Ruth Dhanaraj

If you live in an apartment (as most of us do), it is easy to understand how it takes all kinds to make any world – the brash and the hardworking, the domineering and the docile, where each type plays a part.

The analogy is quite apt when one wants to describe the Insect Cafe. Despite its name, the cafe is in reality, a structure of bamboo constructed with smaller "apartments" where different insects can nest. Conceptualised by WHO, it was adapted in Bengaluru by David Kumar, CEO, Vibhinna India Foundation, an organisation that works towards creating a sustainable planet.

The idea behind the Insect Cafe was to provide a safe zone where wasps, bees and other winged creatures could nest securely and build their colonies. In the ecological sphere of things, the presence and propagation of insects is imperative to life on Earth. Apparently, *Bee Movie* is not just a figment of animated imagination or a stretch of artistic license, but an actual take on ecological balances.

Welcome visitors David Kumar at the Insect cafe; the argiope anasuja spider, leaf cutter bees and crane flies have been spotted there. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Home away from home

Human habitation, economic activities, massive construction and felling of trees are the biggest disruptors of microsystems. Thankfully, over the years, a certain awareness about the environment has crept into our lives and most of us do our bit by planting where we can, supporting lake ecosystems and making sustainable choices.

"While a lot is being done in the areas of conservation, insects have been neglected despite their important role in pollination and ecology. They play a vital part in food security – unless they pollinate we will not have a yield; our health and nutrition is linked to their well being," says David Kumar.

The idea behind this project was to create something visible that people could see and relate to. It took about eight to nine months to ideate and the team installed a small cafe to begin with in Lalbagh and the Lingambudhi Botanical Garden in Mysore.

After observing positive developments, David reached out to corporates and they proceeded to launch nine more cafes in Lal Bagh, two in Cubbon Park and nine at the Doddasaggare Botanical Garden near Koratagere in Tumkur, Karnataka, with six more planned for Madiwala Lake.

EY Global Delivery Services was one of the corporates that supported this initiative. According to Rumi Mallick Mitra, director, Corporate Responsibility, EY Global Delivery Services, the team realised the need for a more innovative approach for some issues that were not getting addressed.

"One of those issues was the bee population and overall insect population. If you see the data globally, there is a decline not only in insect diversity, but also in their annual population in a fairly big way. Though it may seem like a small percentage, it has a huge impact on the ecosystem. Some of these insects are important pollinators – without them the food chain will be impacted," says Rumi.

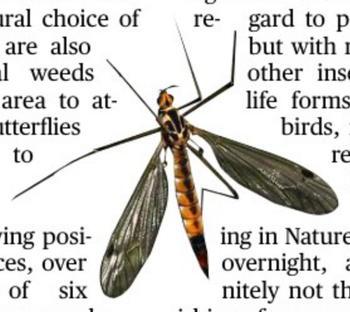
Though the structure in Lal Bagh was placed for the purpose of demonstration and to catch the public eye, it is still a full-fledged cafe. "Environmental protection is a lot about behavior and our primary focus is to drive behavioral change. This area sees a lot of foot fall from students and this community is conscious about the environment," says Rumi, adding that the simple structure of the cafe might inspire others to try something similar or on a smaller scale in their neighbourhoods.

"We started the venture with eight of these cafes in different secluded areas of the lake in Lalbagh as water attracts a lot of different species and these spots were selected by the Horticulture Department," she adds.

Structure

The cafe mimics the shape of an igloo with a domed top that tapers down to sluice rainwater off. One can see as many as 19 compartments or "apartments" of different sizes within the cafe, furnished with twigs of varying sizes and soil, for honeybees, mason bees, wasps and ants.

"Certain sections have been created with holes because some insect species prefer burrowing into closed spaces, which are covered at the top to create a crevice. We have tried to provide the closest match to their natural choice of habitat. We are also adding local weeds around the area to attract more butterflies and insects to that spot," says David.



On observing positive differences, over a period of six months, the team made provisions to lure mud nesting wasps to the cafe, "to add to the diversity," of its inhabitants.

According to David, similar structures have been erected in Mexico, Canada, Germany and other places to create insect homes. The ideation, structure and construction of the cafe was created by the team here in consultation with other entomologists too.

Harmony in ecology

"Within a five-metre radius of this cafe, one can find a minimum of 10 to 15 different types of insects – either under a stone or buzzing around the plants. Keeping this in mind, we created the structure in such a way that it would provide all of them with the type of shelter that suited their needs," says David.

According to Ramegowda G, an entomologist and professor of Horticulture in Mysore, "the cafe is great for educational purposes, especially in the urban ecosystem."

"Insects are important for pollination and biodiversity. They were on earth long before humans invaded their space; we copied the idea of tunnels, canals and even seeding for agriculture, from these creatures," says Ramegowda.

However, he is cautious in his praise. "This is a new arena and offers great scope for basic study and in creating awareness. But, it is still too early to comment on overall impact in a region. This is not just in regard to pollination but with respect to other insect-eating life forms such as birds, frogs and reptiles like lizards."

Nothing in Nature happens overnight, and definitely not the replenishing of any resource that has been depleted. Still it is heartening to hear David say the team had observed the cafe for a period of six months and saw how insects took to the structure.

"We noticed around 15 to 20 species of insects that have sheltered at the cafe and we are working on the impact report," he says, adding that red cotton bugs, argiope anasuja spiders, leaf cutter bees and carpenter bees that have been spotted there.

It takes about 15 days for the construction of each cafe and Vibhinna India Foundation recruits women from the tribal community at Heggadadevanakote taluk for the task, providing them with a source of income.

A nest above the rest

EATING OUT

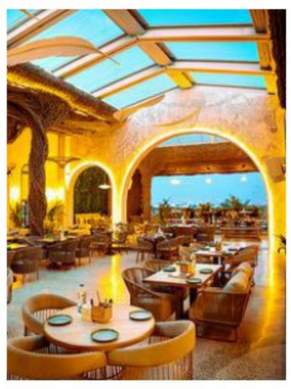
Praveen Sudevan

Sure winners A strong emphasis on fusion. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nestled atop Bellary Road, Nido is a rooftop restobar that spans 3,500 square feet and can host up to 150 guests. This space blends Nature-inspired design with a global fusion menu, making it unique in Bengaluru's crowded restobar scene.

The name Nido, meaning "nest" in Italian, is not just a quirky branding choice – it is the theme that ties everything together. From the lantana twig decor to the leafy green accents and cosy corners, it is a vibe that invites you to sit back, sip a cocktail, and pretend you are not minutes away from Hebbal traffic (which, thankfully, you can barely hear). Even the small details, like the boldly coloured "unbreakable" cutlery and tropical artwork, are coherent with the restobar's theme.

Owner Sathvik Shetty wanted something fresh. "We didn't want another brick-wall pub. The market's full of them. I wanted something that felt like it belonged anywhere in the world – like Hong Kong or the US – and we settled on a rooftop nest." The attention to detail is striking, right down to the hidden "Nido" in the artwork that guests are dared to find. Spot it, and you win a free dessert or cocktail. (Fair warning: if the dessert is the prize, don't get too excited.)



Nido Craft Kitchen & Bar
Hits: Nido fried chicken, karuveppilai koli fry
Misses: Desserts
Price: ₹1,200 for two (approx)

A starter parade

The menu at Nido is just as unique as its ambience, with a strong emphasis on fusion. Chef Boobalan Srinivasan describes the culinary philosophy as a reflection of travel and return. "A nest symbolises going places and coming back. That's what we've captured in the menu by blending regional and global flavours," he says.

The beetroot hummus is an earthy pink delight paired with crispy homemade pita bread. Then there's the malai broccoli with charcoal boondi, a broccoli creation so creamy and smoky it could convert even the most diehard broccoli sceptics.

The Nido fried chicken was crispy, spicy, and gloriously indulgent, thanks to a buttermilk marinade with cajun spices. And the idly chaat? Whoever decided fried idlis deserved a makeover with chutneys, yoghurt, and gunpowder spice deserves an award.

The sole main course we sampled, the nati chicken biryani, was a comforting bowl of spice, tender chicken, and aromatic jeera rice, served with a cooling mixed vegetable raita. It was a dish you would want seconds of – if only you had not spent your stomach real estate on the starters.

Desserts can be a restaurant's final flourish, but at Nido, they feel like a half-hearted footnote. Take the Crème Brûlée, for instance. Traditionally, it should offer a satisfying crack when your spoon breaks through its caramelised sugar top. But this version was soggy, with a soft top and an eggy taste. Then there was the Tiramisu, which had all the right ingredients – mascarpone, coffee-soaked lady's finger biscuits – but somehow missed the magic.

We visited on a Saturday afternoon, and while the ambience was pleasant, it's clear this place comes alive in the evenings.

South side story

Gallery G's latest exhibition, 'The Masters & The Modern: South Edition,' is an exploration of South Indian art across the decades.

The exhibition charts the artistic evolution of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh/Telangana.

Beginning with traditional Tanjore and Mysore paintings – renowned for their gold embellishments and religious iconography – the exhibition highlights how South Indian artists have blended heritage with innovation. The region's sculptural legacy, rooted in temple art, laid the foundation for an evolving visual language that later absorbed European academic realism in the early 20th century.

The exhibition shines a spotlight on the Madras Art Movement, which rejected Western academic traditions in favour of indigenous abstraction and symbolism.

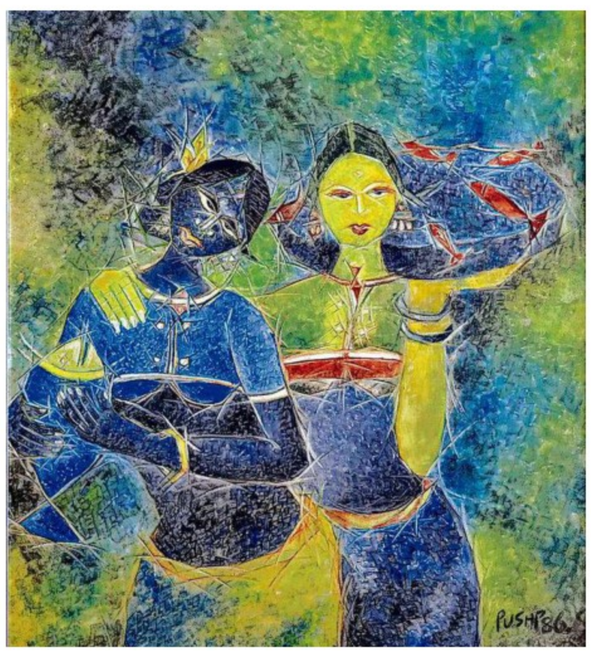
Featured artists include KM Adimoolam, RB Bhaskaran, Achuthan Kudallur, and Surya Prakash, among others. Meanwhile, Karnataka's artists – KK Hebbar, SM Pandit, SG Vasudev, and GS Shenoy – have fused mythology, rural life, and contemporary themes to create a uniquely South Indian modernist identity.

The latter half of the 20th century saw a shift towards experimental art forms, tackling themes of caste, migration, and environmental change. Never-before-exhibited works by Jitesh Kallat, Avinash Veeraraghavan, and Bara Bhaskaran will debut at the show.

The exhibition also introduces emerging artists KP Leon, Hima Hariharan, and Anand Bekwad, who engage with digital and conceptual art, ensuring South Indian art remains vibrant and relevant.

Free and open to the public, this landmark exhibition invites visitors to witness a rich artistic legacy that continues to evolve.

From February 26 to March 31 at Gallery G, Lavelle Road.



CITYBEATS

Rev it up

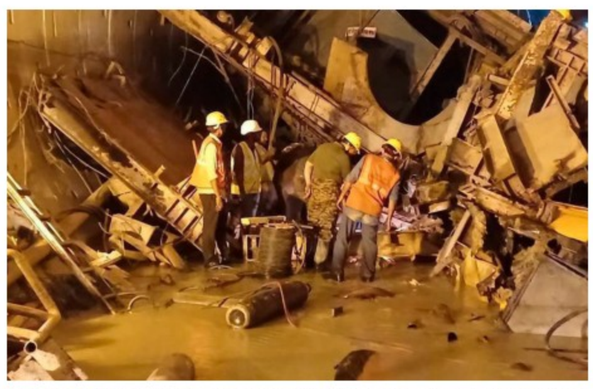
MARCH 8
Royal Brothers and MBSI (Moto Business Service India) are organising the RBForWomen this Women's Day. This initiative aims to help women with skill development and create potential employment opportunities for participants. *Registration fee is ₹399. At Red Riders Go Karting Grounds, Huskur Dommasandra Road, 7am to 10am. Call* 91 9632991922.

Lyrical legacy

MARCH 9
Bengaluru Gayana Samaja and Natanam Institute of Dance present *Dasa Shreshta Purandaradasaru* – a thematic dance production about the life of the great saint-composer. Regarded as a pioneer of Carnatic music, Purandaradasa shaped the Bhakti movement with his compositions. *At Bangalore Gayana Samaja, KR Road, 6pm. Open to all.*

Cherish 'n' unwind

MARCH 8
To mark Women's Day, Justbe by Nidhi Nahata has come up with a special buffet, which is all about self care, nourishment and rejuvenation. The plant-based restaurant assures women that they will not only be pampered with their vast, healthy cuisine, but the special decor for the day will help them unwind too.
At Just Be by Nidhi Nahata. Call 8884163061.



Efforts on: The damaged parts of the Tunnel Boring Machine being cut at the site of the collapse in Telangana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Agencies accelerate removal of debris at tunnel collapse site

Ravi Reddy and B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

In a breakthrough, the South Central Railway's mechanical engineering team has managed to cut parts of the damaged Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) deep inside the collapsed Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana late on Sunday night, facilitating faster removal of metal debris.

The three ultrathermic cutters commissioned by the SCR accelerated the metal-cutting work. "The metal debris is being removed on a war footing. The efforts to trace the eight trapped personnel is under way in full swing," a top government official said on Monday. It has been 10 days since a portion of the SLBC tunnel collapsed.

"Once the site is cleared, smaller machines, such as bobcats and small excavators, would be pressed into service which can reach the tail end of the TBM and this would facilitate faster removal of silt," the top official overseeing the rescue operation told *The Hindu*.

Sources said Colonel Parikshit Mehra of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), along with an engineering team of the State Irrigation Department and the representatives of the executing agency, as well as the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), would meet to explore the possibility of building two smaller tunnels, which would enable them to avoid the vulnerable portion of the damaged tunnel.

A team from the National Centre of Seismology under the Ministry of Earth Sciences will arrive at the SLBC site in Domalapenta of Nagarkurnool district along on Tuesday. The government had urged that a team from the NCS to conduct a seismological study to assess the volume of cracks and the extent of water saturation in the affected area.

14 Maoist cadres surrender before police in Telangana

Over 40 persons have surrendered in the past two months, police say; they attribute 'spurt' to implementation of interactive sessions with family members highlighting rehabilitation policy

The Hindu Bureau
BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

As many as 14 Maoist cadres from the Dandakaranya forest region of Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh surrendered before the Superintendent of Police of Bhadradri Kothagudem, B. Rohith Raju, and CRPF officials in Telanagana on Monday.

With this, the total number of surrenders in the district has risen to 58 so far this year. A total of 44 Maoists, mostly from the strife-torn parts of Chhattisgarh, had surrendered before the Bhadradri Kothagudem police earlier this year, the police said.

Among those who surrendered were Madivi Bheema, 37, CPI (Maoist) Errapalli Revolutionary People's Committee (RPC) Militia commander; Sodi Unga, 35, Errapalli RPC Chetna Natya Mandali (CNM) president; and RPC militia cadres and CNM members from Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh.

Growing numbers: Members of the banned CPI(Maoist)who surrendered in Telangana on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

They had been active in the forested boundary region of the two States.

The police attributed the "spurt" in Maoist surrenders to the "vigorous" implementation of '*Atmeeya Sammelanams*', interactive sessions with the family members of the underground Maoist cadres, to encourage surrenders by highlighting the government's rehabilitation policy for surrendered Maoists.

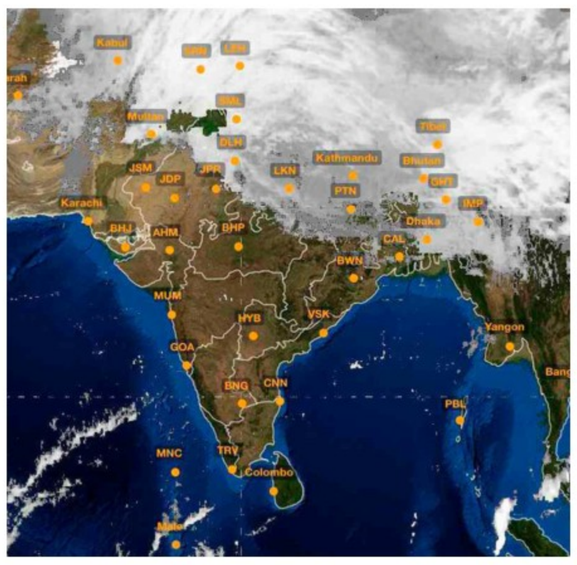
SP's appeal

The SP appealed to the members of the CPI (Maoists) who want to surrender to contact their nearest police station or district higher officials through their family members, a statement from the police said.

(With PTI inputs)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Hot & humid conditions likely in isolated pockets of Konkan & Goa and coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.0	24.0	Kozhikode	40	35.0	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	35.0	20.6	Kurnool	—	39.5	23.4
Aizawl	—	29.1	14.8	Lucknow	—	30.0	12.9
Allahabad	—	31.0	15.6	Madurai	—	34.0	24.6
Bengaluru	—	33.8	21.3	Mangaluru	—	33.4	26.0
Bhopal	—	32.2	15.9	Mumbai	—	35.3	21.2
Bhubaneswar	—	35.2	21.2	Mysuru	—	33.0	21.4
Chandigarh	—	27.9	11.3	New Delhi	—	31.1	9.6
Chennai	—	35.2	24.7	Patna	—	30.1	19.4
Coimbatore	—	35.2	24.5	Port Blair	—	32.3	23.6
Dehradun	—	28.1	10.4	Puducherry	—	33.4	23.5
Gangtok	—	18.5	10.1	Pune	—	39.6	21.9
Goa	—	36.0	25.0	Raipur	—	36.6	22.3
Guwahati	—	34.0	15.1	Ranchi	—	29.8	18.9
Hubballi	—	38.0	22.0	Shillong	—	22.7	11.5
Hyderabad	—	36.7	20.8	Shimla	0.6	14.8	8.2
Imphal	4	26.5	15.6	Srinagar	2	10.2	4.9
Jaipur	—	31.0	15.2	Thiruvananthapuram	73	33.6	23.6
Kochi	4	33.8	25.8	Tiruchi	—	35.3	25.0
Kohima	—	26.1	10.5	Vijayawada	—	36.9	23.2
Kolkata	—	33.0	24.4	Visakhapatnam	—	32.1	25.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.43	..69	16	... 162	...131	
Bengaluru	...9	..12	29	 38	...169	
Chennai	.15	..16	36	 83	89	
Delhi	.10	..55	16	... 214	...180	
Hyderabad	...4	..95	11	 73	...117	
Kolkata	...7	..35	69	... 106	...116	
Lucknow	.12	..81	73	 93	...127	
Mumbai	.31	..46	39	... 162	...194	
Pune	.20	114	39	... 188	...141	
Visakhapatnam	...7	..58	30	 53	95	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 224 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Payment of contractors' pending bills will be done after review of financial situation'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday assured the Karnataka State Contractors' Association of considering payment of their pending bills after reviewing the financial condition.

Speaking to presspersons after the office-bearers of association held a meeting with him, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the contractors had appealed to him to clear the pending bills. He said the government would make efforts to clear as many pending bills as possible in April.

He alleged that bills had been pending as the erstwhile government had taken up works without allocation of funds. "Can our government be responsible for such a situation arising out of the decision of the erstwhile government?" he asked.

Referring to the allegations of contractors that there was a "commission racket", the Chief Minister maintained that it was a crime to offer as well as receive bribes. He said that he had never taken money from anyone to clear any pending bills.

The Chief Minister, who attended the Business Advisory Committees of both the Houses, said that the State Budget will be presented on March 7, while the debate on the Budget would continue till March 19.

He would reply to the debate on the Budget in the Assembly on March 19 and in the Legislative Council on March 20.

E-com platforms told to improve customer service

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Quick commerce and e-com platforms must improve their customer services and delivery experiences, failing which governments may step in with regulations to ensure better service for citizens, cautioned Karnataka IT&BT Minister Priyank Kharge in a post on X.

"@swiggy, @zomato, and other quick commerce and e-commerce platforms must improve their customer service and delivery experience, otherwise, governments may have to step in with regulations to ensure better service and functionality for the citizens," he posted.

While chatbots and smart prompts could handle some of these customer issues, they fell short when it came to resolving genuine customer or citizen grievances, "often trapping them in an endless cycle of uncertainty," he posted on X.

Mr. Kharge said he had received many complaints from people about how these delivery apps were not keeping up the promise in terms of keeping time or providing proper refunds. "If required we will review this with the industry," he told *The Hindu* in response to a query.

Embassy REIT to invest ₹100 crore on Kadubeesanahalli metro station

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and Embassy Office Parks REIT (Embassy REIT) entered into a definitive agreement on February 28 for the construction of the Kadubeesanahalli Metro Station, which will be located on the Outer Ring Road line from Central Silk Board to K.R Pura under Phase-2A of the Namma Metro project.

> Such partnerships are instrumental in accelerating infrastructure growth, and we look forward to working together.
>
> **M. MAHESHWAR RAO**
> Managing Director, BMRCL

Vikas Telecom Pvt. Ltd. (VTPL), part of Embassy REIT, will be investing ₹100 crore for the construction of the metro station and will be offered naming rights, advertisement, commercial space and direct connectivity for a period of 30 years by the BMRCL. The station will be named 'Embassy TechVillage Kadubeesanahalli Metro Station'.

"We are extremely happy that Embassy REIT has come forward with their support for sustainable urban development and urban transport. The ORR corridor is an important mobility route in Bengaluru, connecting key commercial hubs, office parks, and residential areas. Such partnerships are instrumental in accelerating infrastructure growth, and we look forward to working together to build a more accessible and sustainable metro network for the city," said M. Maheshwar Rao, Managing Director, BMRCL.

Ph. No. 06670-235504; E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA.
Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-14/2024-25 Date: 01.03.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement

1. Name of the Work : **Development of approach road to the project site at Tentulipada Mouza of Junagarh Tahasil under Kalahandi District for implementation of 10MW on-grid solar power project in the district of Kalahandi.**
2. No of Works : **01 No.**
3. Location details : **Kalahandi District**
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000/-** per set
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
06.03.2025 11.00 A.M.	20.03.2025 5.00 P.M.	19.03.2025	21.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site "**www.tendersorissa.gov.in**"
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna
O-1565: OIPR-25102/11/0013/2425

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH
6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW
No. ME-3/2025/516 Lucknow: Dated-03 March, 2025

Important information regarding opening of registration portal for online counseling of UP NEET PG-2024

In view of the reduction of cut-off percentile for NEET PG-2024 by NBEMS, New Delhi Notice dated 25.02.2025, the dates for online registration of admission to MD/MS/Diploma and DNB courses in government/private medical colleges for UP NEET PG-2024 counseling are as follows-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of online Registration & deposition of registration fee/ Security money	04th March 2025 (From 11:00 AM) to 06th March 2025 (Till 05:00 PM)	03 Days

- The registration portal is being opened due to the cut-off percentile being lowered by NBEMS, New Delhi for online registration of all the upcoming round for eligible candidates under UP NEET PG Counseling-2024.
- There is no need for re-registration of eligible candidates already registered for UP NEET PG -2024 counseling.
- Only new candidates who would register on the prescribed dates and previously registered eligible candidates will be eligible to participate in the counseling. The list of all the above registered candidates will be sent to NBMES New Delhi for preparation of State Specific Merit List, in which the state merit rank list of previously registered candidates may change.
- For the UP NEET PG 2024 counseling, it is mandatory for the eligible new candidates to register by logging on the website **https://www.upneet.in** by depositing the registration fee of Rs. 2000/- (Rs. Two thousand only) online.
- The registration fee will not be refunded under any circumstances. i.e registration fee is not refundable.
- To participate in the counseling, it is mandatory to deposit security amount of Rs. 30,000/- (Rs. thirty thousand only) for the seats of MD/MS/Diploma and DNB courses in the government colleges and Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rs. two lakh only) for the seats of MD/MS courses in the private colleges online. On depositing the security amount of Rs. 2,00,000/-, the candidates will be eligible for both government and private seats.
- Candidates whose registration fee & Security money is not deposited will not be eligible for choice filling in the counseling process.
- All information related to UP NEET PG 2024 counseling will be uploaded on website **https://upneet.gov.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in**.

(Director General)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUBERNAREKHA CANAL DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR
(Email ID: - eescdjsr.chandil@gmail.com)

Short E-Procurement Tender Notice (e-Tender Notice)
E-Tender Ref. No.: WRD/SCD/JSR/SBD-01/2024-25
DATE- 03.03.2025

1.	Name of Work	Jungle clearance, Desilting, Repair of damaged Canal Lining and Structures in between Km. 32.238 to 40.85 & Km. 43.30 to 54.86 & Repair of old structures in between Km. 54.86 to 59.72 of Chandil Left Main Canal.
2.	Estimated cost of work (in INR)	Rs. 34959011.90/- (Rupees Three Crore forty-nine lakhs fifty-nine thousands eleven rupees and ninety paise only)
3.	Initial Bid Security ((in INR)	Rs.3,50,00/- (Rupees Three lakh Fifty thousands only)
4.	Initial Bid Security	Initial Bid Security online deposit - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and E-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand. Vide letter no-120 dated-03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding Documents	Rs. 10,000.00 (Rupees ten thousand only) Online Deposit
6.	Time of completion	15 (Fifteen) Months
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	06.03.2025 (5:00 P.M.)
8.	Start Date of Bidding	06.03.2025 (5:00 P.M.)
9.	Last Date and time for online Bidding	22.03.2025 up to 5.00 P.M
10	Type of Bid	Two Envelope Mode (Technical & Financial Bid)
11	Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid Security and other Documents in online form	22.03.2025 Through e-Tendering Portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and E-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand. Vide letter no-120 dated-03.10.2023
12	Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	24.03.2025 At 12.00 P.M by E-procurement cell office of the Chief Engineer, Swarnrekha Project chandil complex Adityapur, Jamshedpur
13	Name & Address of office inviting Tender	Executive Engineer,Subernarekha Canal Division, Jamshedpur
14	Contact no. of Procurement officer	8092056468
15	Helpline no. of E- Procurement Cell	0657-2371765

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT and SBD Published on Tender Portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on Website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Subernarekha Canal Division,
Jamshedpur

PR 347665 Water Resource (24-25)_D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2024-25/89
Dated: 21.02.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of Type II Staff Quarters at Haveri (HVR) 8 units - (Revised for Type II - 10 units).	Rs. 18,26,005/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 14.03.2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General/ Mysuru
PUB/810/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GITA APPACHU, wife of CJ Appachu residing in number 31 Berlie Street, Langford Town, Bangalore, Karnataka, Pin-560025 have changed my name from Geetha Appachu to C Gita Appachu due to variation in name in official and civil documents like Aadhar Card and Pension Paying Order. My date of birth is 09/02/1953 and both names belong to one and the same person.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SH. DEVENDER KUMAR JANGALA. LD DJ-01. ROOM NO. 615, DWARKA COURTS NEW DELHI
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
(ORDER 5, Rule 20 of the CPC.)
CS/DJ/ADJ/778/2023
M/S ENSAVIOR TECHNOLOGIES PVT. LTD. VS. .....Plaintiff
SHASHI KIRAN K.R. ..... Defendants

To,
SHASHI KIRAN K.R. S/O MR. RAGHAVENDRA RAO KS R/O 497/571, GROUND FLOOR, 7 MAIN GIRINAGAR, PHASE-2, BENGALURU-560085

Whereas Plaintiff has instituted that above SUIT FOR DAMAGES, FUTURE DAMAGES, PERMANENT AND MANDATORY INJUNCTION AND DEFAMATION against the defendants. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on the 26th day of MARCH 2025, at 10:00 O'clock, to answer the same, failing which the Suit will be disposed of ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 04th FEB. 2025.

Seal
LD DJ-01. ROOM NO. 615, DWARKA COURTS NEW DELHI

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No.15331653N, Rank:HAV, Name: Basavantappa Kavalikai, r/at Hireulligeri, Savadatti Taluk, Belagavi-591126 have changed my Son name from Pawan to Pawan Basavantappa Kavalikai vide affidavit dtd 27.02.2025 sworn before Notary C.V.Earappa, Blore

I, No.15331653N, Rank:HAV, Name: Basavantappa Kavalikai, r/at Hireulligeri, Savadatti Taluk, Belagavi-591126 hereby state that both the names Basavva and Basavannivva Dyamanna kavalikai belongs to one and the same person i.e., my mother's only and her Date of birth is wrongly mentioned as 01.07.1959 in Aadhar and PAN Card. Her correct date of birth is 14.07.1965 vide affidavit dtd 27.02.2025 sworn before Notary C.V.Earappa, Blore

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has agreed for the purchase of the Schedule property from its owner **Shri. M. MUNIREDDY.** Son of Late Muniswamy residing in the Schedule Property granted as per the Saguvali Chit and Official Memorandum No.LND SR 118/78-79 dated 2-2-1979 and M R No.7/79-80. Apart from owner if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for the purchase of the Schedule Property by the aforementioned Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing the **Survey No.44, (New Survey No.106 and 107)** measuring **2-00 Acres** situated **Mulluru Village**, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Sd/-
ROOPA G.
Advocate
No.105-38, 4th Cross Byrsandara Main Road Jayanagar 1st Block East Bangalore – 560 011

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIJOY DEVASSY, R/at A314, CBR Prakruthi Apts, Flower Garden Road, Babusapalaya, Bang–43 have changed my daughters name from ILAYNA VIJOY to ILAYNA LASIJA VIJOY for all my future purposes through affidavit 26–02–2025 sworn before notary Udaykumar.K

I, VIJOY DEVASSY, R/at A314, CBR Prakruthi Apts, Flower Garden Road, Babusapalaya, Bang–43 have changed my name from VIJOY DEVASSY W, VIJOY DEVASSY WINNY to VIJOY DEVASSY for all my future purposes through affidavit 01–03–2025 sworn before notary Udaykumar.K

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has agreed for the joint development of the Schedule property from its owner **Shri. GANESH V.** Son of Late Vasappa residing in the Schedule Property. Apart from owner if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the property or other wise have any lawful objection/s for the joint development of the Schedule Property by the aforementioned Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, with in 10 days from the date of publication of the this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing the **Survey No.53/4C measuring 30** Guntas situated **Guruve bovipalya Village,** Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on

East by : Shankarappa layout;
West by : Road;
North by : Private property;
South by : Road and Private property

Sd/-
ROOPA G.
Advocate
No.105-38, 4th Cross Byrsandara Main Road Jayanagar 1st Block East Bangalore – 560 011

Battle for growth

Increase in government spending, private consumption bode well

There was a significant uptick in India's economic trajectory, in the December quarter of this financial year (Q3FY25), registering a 6.2% real GDP growth rate, compared with a low revised estimate of 5.6% (5.4%) in the previous quarter. To be sure, this growth rate was the slowest since Q4FY23, except for the previous quarter's 5.6%. The 6.2% growth rate also suggests that the government's full-year growth target of 6.5% is virtually unattainable, given global headwinds of tariffs that could lead to imported inflation, amid tepid performance by the manufacturing and services sector domestically. The bulk of Q3FY25 growth has been bolstered by the primary sector, with a value-add of 5.2%, up from 1.8% in the same quarter last year. But growth in the secondary and tertiary sectors that make up manufacturing and services slowed to 4.8% and 7.4% respectively, compared with 12.4% and 8.3% last year. While Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran acknowledged that a growth rate of 7.6% in the current quarter is ambitious amid global economic uncertainties, his suggestion that this growth is attainable sounds rather optimistic, unless the Maha Kumbh propelled a consumption spike that was able to buttress the current quarter's growth numbers. India's manufacturing and services sectors remain vulnerable to global trade uncertainties, such as the U.S.'s 25% import tariff on steel, and an equal percentage proposed on pharmaceuticals. About a third (31%) of India's pharma exports totalling $8.7 billion were to the U.S. in FY24. News of the proposed tariffs has sent shock waves, with some firms suggesting a pivot to producing in the U.S., which could potentially lead to a trade revenue loss for India.

There are bright spots, however. The uptick of 8.3% (2.3%) in government spending and 6.9% (5.7%) growth in private consumption expenditure have been bolstered by a moderation in inflation. The RBI has projected inflation to average 4.8% in FY25, estimating that this would ease further to 4.2% in FY26, indicating a possible alignment with the RBI's medium-term target of 4%. However, these current estimates have come into question as the National Statistical Office (NSO) indicated that it has attempted a tweaking of its methodology, factoring in "industry-wise/institution-wise detailed information" but not quite elaborating on what material influence this has had on the quality and quantity of the data collected. The NSO went on to say that the 'overall as well as sectoral variations in advanced estimates is attributed to a revision of benchmark estimates and additional or updated data available on various indicators'. The NSO must clarify this revision in methodology to enable a more informed analysis of the data that it provides.

War and peace

Ukraine should not be made a pawn in any U.S. deal with Russia

The dramatic showdown in the White House between U.S. President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in full view of television cameras, was unprecedented in the history of modern diplomacy. For Mr. Zelenskyy, who was to sign an agreement on minerals and discuss Mr. Trump's peace plan, the visit was both humiliating and disastrous. Humiliating because Mr. Zelenskyy's apparent questioning of U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance's push for diplomacy triggered a spiralling spat, prompting Mr. Trump to say that Ukraine was not winning the war and that Mr. Zelenskyy was being ungrateful to the U.S. It was disastrous because Mr. Trump asked Mr. Zelenskyy to take the deal he was negotiating with the Russians or "we are out". This was a threat that the U.S. would stop supplying weapons to Kyiv, which is struggling to slow down an advancing Russia. Mr. Trump's snub that Mr. Zelenskyy had "disrespected America in its cherished Oval Office" and that "he can come back when he is ready for peace", marked a breakdown in his relationship with the Ukrainians. This, unless reversed, could prove costly for Ukraine at a time when it needs the support of all its allies.

The tragedy of Ukraine is that it became a pawn in the great game between a powerful Russia and the U.S.-dominated North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the bloc Kyiv wanted to join. When Joe Biden was the U.S. President, he promised to support Ukraine "as long as it takes". The weapons and training that the U.S. and Europe have provided to Ukraine helped it mount an effective resistance. But the problem has been that even with that support, Ukraine does not have a path towards victory. And the return of Mr. Trump, who promised to shut down the war through a reset with Russia, has meant the end of the 'as-long-as-it-takes' policy. Mr. Trump seems determined to make a deal with Russia, while Ukraine wants security guarantees, which Washington is reluctant to provide. This is the main reason for the rift. After the Oval Office spat, Mr. Zelenskyy was welcomed in London by U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who said Europe must "do heavy lifting". But he also emphasised that for any European plan to succeed, it "must have strong U.S. backing". So it is important for Ukraine and Europe to work with the Trump administration in negotiations with Russia. And if America, which until two months ago was Ukraine's greatest supporter, abandons Kyiv, it would only hurt its reputation as a global power. The U.S. should make sure that Ukraine's security concerns are adequately addressed in any final agreement with Russia, and aimed at ending the war and bringing lasting peace in Europe.

India's burden of rising obesity, the hefty cost to pay

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya

is a practising physician, who has worked with the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies for nearly 17 years. He is the author of 'Obesity care in India: a national white paper'

In the last two decades in India, a major epidemiological transition has happened that has not captured sufficient public attention – the challenge of overweight and obesity. The National Family Health Survey round 5 (NFHS-5, 2019-21) suggests that nearly one in every four men or women is obese. The proportion of those who are overweight and obese ranges from 8% to 50% across States, in both men and women, and in rural and urban settings. The World Obesity Federation estimates that India's annual increase in childhood obesity is one of the world's steepest. Overweight and obesity in adults and children have doubled in the last 15 years and tripled in the last three decades. A nationwide study by the Indian Council of Medical Research in *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology* (2023) had estimated that amongst adults over 20 years of age in India, one in every third (35 crore) has abdominal obesity, one in every fourth person (25 crore) has generalised obesity and one in every fifth person (21 crore has high levels of blood cholesterol.

Why the subject needs urgent attention

Being overweight and obese is often considered to be a personal issue. Also, the general societal attitude in India normalises obesity or being overweight. Over the past few decades, India has made another positive epidemiological shift: from being a 'food or calorie deficient' to becoming 'food or calorie sufficient (with inequitable distribution) nation. Yet, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' report (2024), estimated that around 55% (78 crore) of India's population could not afford a healthy diet and that nearly 40% of people fall short of an adequate-nutrient diet. In the last two decades, easy and low-cost availability of high fat, salt, sugar (HFSS) and the ultra-processed food (UPF) has compounded the challenge. Urbanisation has led to a sedentary lifestyle for many. A recent World Health Organization (WHO) report says that 50% of Indians fail to meet recommended physical activity levels.

The 'thin fat Indian' is a scientifically validated hypothesis: that Indians even with normal body mass index (BMI) often have higher body fat. The 'common soil hypothesis' highlights obesity as a cause and risk factor for diabetes (one in every fourth Indian adult, or 25 crore Indians, is either diabetic or prediabetic). Overweight and obesity are associated with an estimated 3.4 million deaths annually in the world. This, *inter alia*, WHO and the professional association of doctors and endocrinologists across the world have recognised that obesity is both a risk factor/lifestyle challenge and a complex and chronic disease. The global obesity observatory estimates that the annual economic cost of obesity and being overweight in India in 2019 was $28.95 billion (₹1,800 per capita), or 1.02% of India's GDP. These costs are linked to health-care expenditures and lost productivity, among others. Without sufficient interventions, it is estimated that the economic burden is likely to increase to ₹4,700 per capita by 2030 (or 1.57% of GDP). India's Economic Survey 2024-25 takes note of obesity as an emerging health challenge, recommending higher taxation on UPF.

> The general societal attitude in the country which normalises overweight or obesity must change; holistic interventions are needed to ensure a healthy nation

Yet, unlike undernutrition, there are not enough programmatic initiatives to tackle obesity. Though, the national government promotes the 'Khelo India', 'Fit India Movement' or 'Eat Right India' campaigns, and there has been public discourse also for a reduction in cooking oil use in households, these are initiatives which place far too much of a responsibility on the individual, even as and the responsibility of most other stakeholders is underplayed.

Policy and programmatic solutions

Tackling obesity needs a multipronged approach.

First, start a nuanced societal dialogue, and a structured science communication and public awareness campaign to highlight that obesity is a disease with rising burden and which contributes to other diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and liver disorders. Obesity needs prevention, care and management, just like any other health condition.

Second, more must be done to promote and facilitate regular physical activity. There needs to be better urban planning and urban infrastructure development with place for bicycle lanes, free access to parks and other public spaces and open gymnasiums.

Third, HFSS and UPF products are major contributors to the rising burden of overweight and obesity. These food items need to be taxed at a higher rate, with subsidies for healthier food items including fruits and vegetables and actions to ensure their easy and widespread availability. The food industry should volunteer to adopt ethical practices in food marketing.

Fourth, the 'weight, height and waist circumference' measurement has to be an integral part of all health visits and preventive health check-ups. Discussions regarding optimal weight should be done in every engagement with health-care providers. People need to know basic information such as what one's optimal weight or waist circumference should be. A very generic but useful parameter to know one's ideal weight is the height in centimetre minus 100 for males and minus 105 for females. The waist circumference of more than 80 cm in women and 90 cm in men is unhealthy.

Fifth, anti-obesity medicines are being licensed in various settings. There is a need for developing and widely disseminating clinical practice guidelines about the ideal candidates for anti-obesity medicines, which need to be used as per medical indication.

Sixth, every office and workplace needs to raise awareness about 'unhealthy weight' in the workforce and make weighing scales easily available. There must be regular awareness campaigns about obesity prevention. Body fat and composition analysis should be made routine practice.

Seventh, schools and colleges should be engaged in knowledge sharing on healthy eating habits and healthy diets. School canteens should serve healthy food. The proven good practices such as health promoting schools need to be adopted in India. The learnings from countries such as Japan, where dietitians are a part of every school network, should be explored.

Coordinated interventions

Eighth, obesity prevention requires multiple ministry engagements (health, finance, education, agriculture, urban planning and development) to work together. One of the learnings from implementing feeding and nutrition programmes is that isolated interventions make a limited difference. India's nutrition intervention programme needs to be reimagined as 'Suposhan Abhiyan' with a focus on not just feeding but also 'mindful under-feeding' and 'rightful micronutrient supplementation'.

Ninth, the research community, medical and public health professionals need to generate additional evidence including epidemiological data on overweight and obesity. This evidence needs to be communicated in easily comprehensible messages for the general public. The professional association of doctors needs to build the capacity of health-care providers in tackling overweight and obesity.

Tenth, in India, eating healthy is becoming more expensive than eating junk food. The food industry, especially online food delivery platforms, must facilitate healthy eating. Corporate social responsibility funds from this sector should be earmarked to promote a health lifestyle and eating habits.

Obesity is a public health challenge, waiting for holistic, multipronged and comprehensive interventions. Tackling overweight and obesity is a *sine qua non* for a healthy, economically prosperous and developed India.

Australia, the partner for India's growth trajectory

Philip Green

is Australia's High Commissioner to India

Australia believes in India. We believe that India has a bright future economically. We believe that it will be the third biggest economy in the world by 2030. And we believe that India warrants greater political influence as its economy grows – that is why we back India's claim for a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

We also believe that Australia is a natural partner for India's growth because our economies are complementary (we produce the things India needs, and vice versa); because we are strategically aligned; and because we are neighbours just across the Indian Ocean.

The new Roadmap, the next phase of ties

For these reasons, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese last week personally launched the *New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India*. The *Roadmap* sets out how Australia can contribute to, and benefit from, India's phenomenal growth. Put simply, the *Roadmap* says that Australia believes in the Indian growth narrative, and the Roadmap then goes on to articulate how Australia has the skills, the resources and the commitment to support that narrative.

The *Roadmap* builds on the successful effort from our last economic strategy in 2018. But a lot has changed since then.

Fuelled by our free trade agreement, the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), the India-Australia relationship has grown at the high end of our expectations. Take this one telling statistic. India's exports to the world have grown by 35% in the last five years. Not bad, right? But India's exports to Australia have grown by 66% – nearly twice as fast as India's exports to the rest of the world.

That is because India is growing in ways that are complementary to Australia's own economy.

Australia produces the things that India will need for the next chapter of its growth – the energy to power the Indian economy; the resources (including the critical minerals) to power India's manufacturing drive; and the training capabilities that India needs to skill up the next generation of Indian professionals and workers.

> Australia has the skills, the resources and the commitment to support India's growth

The *Roadmap* charts the next phase of our partnership, and showcases how Australia can be part of India's economic story. It identifies four sectors – the "Superhighways of growth" – where the Australia-India partnership is most prospective. Those superhighways of growth are: clean energy; education and skills; agribusiness and tourism.

The *Roadmap* also describes another seven 'major economic roads' to mutual prosperity: investment; tech; sports; culture and the arts; resources; defence; space and health. These are the fields in which our complementary capabilities can be most naturally leveraged.

In framing our partnership, we are listening closely to India's ambitions.

A great example is India's ambition for manufacturing electric vehicles. When India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about the number of electric vehicles growing eight-fold in India by 2030, Australia responds that we have the critical minerals and raw earth metals to realise that goal. Australia is the largest lithium producer in the world, and has the world's second largest reserves of nickel and cobalt.

Support for India's skill needs

We are also listening carefully to Indian voices about skills needs. And we hear that India needs to equip two crore Indians every year with the right skills and qualifications to maximise its growth. Australian universities are listening, and are gearing up to provide the high-quality training needed to support Indian ambitions. Australian universities have been the first foreign universities to open campuses here in India – in Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) city, and shortly in Noida (Uttar Pradesh), and more will follow in the coming years.

Australia also boasts a 'super power' when it comes to economic engagement with India. That super power is the Indian diaspora, already 10 lakh strong and the fastest growing population group in our country. Many of these Indian-Australians are prominent leaders in business, government and the community. And our new Centre for Australia India Relations, with ₹132 crore worth of support from our government, is, appropriately, headed by two eminent Australians of Indian origin. Our Prime Minister stood beside one of them as he launched the *Roadmap*.

The Indian diaspora is a bridge

The Indian diaspora in Australia is an invaluable asset. Indian-Australians deepen our understanding of each other and spark business opportunities. Because our government understands the value of this 'human bridge' (as Mr. Modi calls it), we are investing another ₹22 crore into our hugely successful Maitri grants program. This programme works to maximise the potential of our diaspora links.

The *Roadmap* signals to Australian business that they should look for further opportunities to partner with Indian counterparts, for mutual benefit.

And as they do that, it becomes even more important that we progress our Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), building a higher platform for the next stage of our economic partnership.

As the Australian Prime Minister says "Australia's relationship with India is stronger, deeper and more consequential than it has ever been – but there is much more to come. What is truly exciting is the sheer scale of the opportunities in the near future if we get things right in the present... With this *Roadmap*, the way ahead looks a lot clearer."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

White House diplomacy

The televised exchange between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has exposed the flaws in Mr. Trump's diplomatic approach. His visible frustration, abrupt decision to cancel a mineral rights deal along with threats to withdraw U.S. aid, highlight a lack of strategic foresight in handling global conflicts. Mr. Trump's insistence that Ukraine show more "gratitude" for American support, while pressuring Mr. Zelenskyy to consider a ceasefire without firm security guarantees, reflects a transactional view of diplomacy. Such an approach ignores the reality that Ukraine is fighting for its sovereignty against an aggressive Russia. By prioritising short-term political gains over long-term global stability, Mr. Trump risks weakening the U.S.'s credibility among its allies and strengthening Russia's position.

His erratic handling of the situation underscores the dangers of impulsive leadership in geopolitics. Instead of reinforcing western unity, Mr. Trump's actions have created unnecessary uncertainty at a critical moment in international relations.

Md Sabir Hussain,
Arrah, Bihar

Mr. Trump is not known for exercising restraint in word or deed, which was evident in the White House meeting. The American leader played his natural role as the disruptive, overbearing leader who will stop at nothing to steal an advantage in a deal from friend or foe. Mr. Zelenskyy is caught in an unenviable position between the war on one side and a reluctant main ally on the other.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

Mr. Trump is doing what is good for his country and what he promised to the American people. The Ukrainian leader deserved the dressing down as he is hell-bent on continuing a hopeless war against a formidable Russia. Mr. Zelenskyy's rigidity will bring about the total destruction and devastation of his country. Russia's Putin may even choose to use nuclear weapons.

M.R. Anand,
Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh

Corrections & Clarifications

The scoreboard of a report, "Varun bamboozles Kiwi batters as India tops group" (Sport page, March 3, 2025), mentioned that the toss was won by India whereas the text said that the Men in Blue were asked to bat. The report is correct.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The way to protect orans

Kanika Jamwal
Doctoral candidate, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

In December 2024, in *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court recognised the socio-ecological and cultural importance of orans (sacred forests) for local communities in Rajasthan, and passed protectionist orders for their conservation. The judgment aims to further the protection of orans and harness local communities' agency for doing so. It seeks to achieve these objectives by formalising the governance and management of orans – that is, by bringing them within the purview of biodiversity-related laws. While this is a well-intended move, formalisation may not produce the desired outcomes.

Orans are sacred groves established by local communities since pre-agrarian times. Every oran is presided by a local deity whose idol is placed inside it. While different socio-religious traditions may be associated with different orans, a shared tradition is the prohibition on cutting trees using an axe. It is believed that anyone who contravenes this may be harmed by the deity.

In addition to their socio-religious and economic importance, by enhancing local fauna, orans also support traditional water sources. By trapping surface runoff, they increase groundwater levels in the area. This augments water availability in sources both above and below the ground. In some villages of Rajasthan, orans are established and governed by informal community institutions as a part of comprehensive watershed management.

Problems with formalisation

The Court's objective of encouraging community-led protection of orans is evident throughout the judgment. It acknowledges and reiterates the crucial role played by formal and informal community institutions in governing orans. However, the pathway laid down to achieve this objective is contentious.

The Supreme Court's directions to formalise the status of orans are well-intended, but may not produce the desired outcomes

In the judgment, the first step towards formalisation is the Court's declaration of orans as 'forests' under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. While this will ensure that orans receive protection under the Act, it will also subject them to the wide exemptions that circumvent such protection. Some exemptions introduced through the Forest (Conversation) Amendment Act, 2023, have been critiqued on the grounds that they dilute the protections accorded by the Act. For example, the Act requires that diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes requires permission from the Central government. However, diversion for inter alia zoos, safaris, and ecotourism has been exempted from this requirement. Bringing orans under the purview of the Act foregrounds them and opens them for such contentious use. Not only would this defeat the purpose of conserving them, but also conflict with the local communities' use of and approach towards orans. In fact, in May 2024, *Down To Earth* had reported that local communities in Rajasthan have expressed their reservations against the declaration of orans as forests; they apprehend that any such formalisation will lead to loss of their access over their orans.

Second, the Court's objective to further community-led governance and management of orans will also be subdued by formalisation. Take, for example, the direction to declare orans as 'community reserves' under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Act provides for the setting up a committee for the management of such reserves, consisting of representation from both the local community and the State. However, as has been noted by legal scholars, the role of this committee is limited to managerial tasks. The committee has been excluded from the decision-making process.

Further, under the Act, the ultimate control of any 'community reserve' is with the State, as will be the case with orans if they are declared as such. This could tether the current role played by informal community institutions in governing and managing orans.

Similarly, the suggestion to declare orans as 'common forest land' under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, may not necessarily empower communities or grant them rights. To claim rights, a community/individual must meet the eligibility criteria under the Act. The Court has directed the State government to identify such communities and grant them rights under the Act. However, in certain villages, orans have been established and are being managed by informal community institutions that may not meet the criteria. So, they may not be able to enjoy the rights guaranteed under the Act.

The better approach

One of the suggestions made by the Court is that the Environment Ministry should formulate a comprehensive policy for the governance and management of orans. This proposal emerges from the lack of a formal governance mechanism for managing orans – as noted by the Court, different States manage them in different ways, through various formal and informal institutions.

While a comprehensive policy is welcome, it should not be aimed at formalising informal community institutions or replacing them with a centralised body. Rather, as suggested in the judgment itself, successful models of informal governance should be identified, empowered, and replicated in similar contexts. Such empowerment and replication must be in consultation with local communities and other civil society actors. In other words, policies should encourage communities to take the lead in governing their orans, with the support of the state and civil society.

Identifying the 'outsiders'

Concerns about discrepancies in the voters' list are political in nature

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

On February 27, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee directed her party's rank and file to scrutinise the State's voters' list and identify the "outsiders" who have made it to the list.

Ms. Banerjee alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with the "blessings" of the Election Commission of India (ECI), has inducted citizens from other States in the West Bengal voters' list. Citing examples of voters with the same Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number being enrolled in West Bengal and in other States, she said that the move to induct such "outsiders" into West Bengal's voter list was intended to influence the Assembly elections, which are scheduled for 2026.

The Chief Minister has told her party leaders that in every Assembly constituency, there are 20,000-30,000 voters who are "not residents of the State" and are likely to tilt the balance in the favour of the BJP, the principal Opposition party in the State. She said that elections in the State will have no meaning if the "outsiders" were not removed from the voters' list.

On March 2, the ECI issued a statement. It said, "It is clarified that while EPIC numbers of some of the electors may be identical, the other details including demographic details, Assembly Constituency, and polling booth are different for the electors with the same EPIC number." Despite this assurance, Trinamool leaders have been going from door to door scrutinising the voters' list in various parts of the State.

The BJP also believes that the voters' list in West Bengal is full of "outsiders". However, its idea of "outsiders" is different from the Trinamool's. The BJP leadership insists that 17 lakh voters enlisted in the State's voters' list are "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh whose names should be removed from the list before the Assembly polls.

Until the 1970s, West Bengal was a hub of industries. People from different parts of the country flocked to the State in search of jobs. A significant share of the electorate in West Bengal therefore comprises people with roots in other States; they are referred to as the 'non-Bengali" speakers. Moreover, West Bengal was also the destination for people who left Bangladesh both before and after the 1971 Liberation War. Bangladesh shares a 4,096-km-long land border with five States in India; West Bengal alone accounts for 2,216 km. This is why the voters' list is likely to have people who have their roots in Bangladesh, but are culturally and linguistically connected to the people of West Bengal.

By challenging the voters' list, both the Trinamool and the BJP are trying to set the tone of their respective campaigns for the 2026 polls. There are similarities between their current campaigns and those of the 2021 Assembly polls. That was when the Trinamool highlighted Bengali sub-nationalism and the BJP's narrative was dominated by religious polarisation.

Ms. Banerjee has been saying "Bengal will not be administered by outsiders." So far, the Trinamool has been able to portray the BJP as a party of "outsiders" whose leaders come from Gujarat and speak Hindi. Over the past decade, Ms. Banerjee has been able to convince the majority of the electorate that the BJP is full of "*bohiragato* (outsiders)" and "Bangla *birodhi* (those opposed to Bengal)". This campaign worked for her in 2021 and she seems ready to launch her poll campaign along similar lines for 2026.

The BJP, which has placed all its bets on the polarisation of Hindu votes, sees the political turmoil in Bangladesh as an opportunity. BJP leaders in West Bengal have been constantly raising the issue of attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. They argue that West Bengal will go the "Bangladesh way" if there is no change in power in the State. They have already given up on reaching out to Muslim voters who comprise about 27% of the State's population. BJP leaders, including the Leader of the Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, have said that there is no point in having a 'minority *morcha* (minority wing)' when the party does not get any votes from Muslims.

Therefore, the BJP and Trinamool's concerns about discrepancies in the voters' list are political in nature. The Trinamool is figuring out the names of residents of Hindi-speaking States and the BJP is looking for people with origins in Bangladesh. The two parties may intensify these campaigns in the coming months.

Republicans and Democrats remain divided on U.S. aid to Ukraine

Survey results indicate varied sentiments among Americans towards NATO and the Russia-Ukraine war

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

A day after the heated exchange in the Oval Office between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance, protesters across various U.S. cities took to the streets to show solidarity with Ukraine.

According to a survey conducted by the PEW Research Center, Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. continue to hold differing views on the country's military support of Ukraine.

Chart 1 shows the party-wise split and the total share of respondents who believe that the U.S. is providing adequate, inadequate, or the right amount of support to Ukraine, as of February 9, 2025.

The share of Americans who believe that the U.S. is providing too much support to Ukraine has increased from 27% to 30% since before the November elections. The share of respondents who believe that enough support is not being provided (22%) has also increased by 4 percentage points since then. About 23% Americans think that the U.S. is providing the right amount of support to Ukraine.

Chart 2 shows the party-wise and overall trajectory (2022 to 2025) of opinions on the U.S.'s support of Ukraine. Nearly 50% of Republican and Republican-leaning respondents believe that the U.S. is providing too much support to the east European country, while less than 15% of Democrats and Democrat-leaning independents believe the same.

The share of Americans who believe that just the right amount of support is being given to Ukraine has reduced among all groups: among Democrats, it has reduced by a drastic 12 points and among Republicans, by a meagre 3 points. Overall, 11% fewer Americans believe so.

Chart 3 shows how Americans think support for Ukraine affects U.S. national security. The share of Americans who believe that supporting Ukraine helps U.S. national security (39%) is much higher than the share who think it hurts U.S. national security. However, close to 27% feel that the U.S.'s support for Ukraine has no impact on national security.

Data also show drastic differences within the partisan groups. Democrats are more likely to say that supporting Ukraine helps U.S. national security while Republicans are more likely to say it hurts national security.

Among Democrats, the share of people who think aiding Ukraine helps U.S. national security is highest among those aged 65 or older. The share falls to 58% among Democrats aged 50-64, 49% among Democrats aged 30-49, and 43% among Democrats under 30. Among Republicans, those under 30 are more likely than those aged 65 and older to believe that support for Ukraine hurts U.S. national security.

Chart 4 shows what Americans think about the U.S.'s membership in NATO. More than 60% of Americans believe that the U.S. benefits from NATO membership while 34% believe it does not benefit too much or at all.

However, the share of Americans who believe that the U.S. benefits from NATO has declined from 66% in 2024 to 63% in 2025.

Again, among partisan groups, Republicans are less likely to see that the U.S. benefits from NATO membership. While 82% of Democrats believe that the U.S. benefits from being a member of NATO, only 47% of Republicans agree with them. A majority of Republicans perceive that the nation doesn't benefit too much or at all.

Data also show that the share of Americans who believe that European allies should increase their defence spending has reduced from 47% in 2024 to 39% in 2025 **(Chart 5)**.

Along partisan lines

The data for the charts were collected from the Pew Research Center

Chart 1: Party-wise split and the total share of respondents who believe that the U.S. is providing _____ to Ukraine

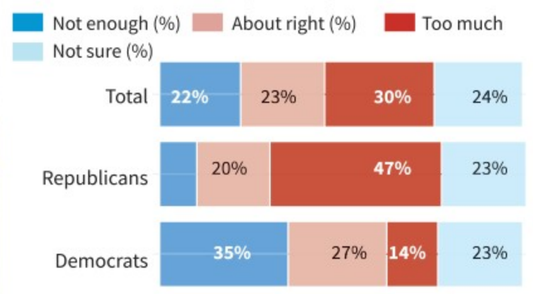


Chart 2: Percentage who say that when it comes to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. is providing _____ support to Ukraine

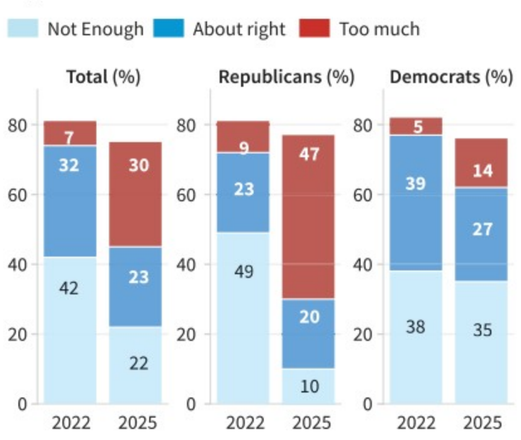


Chart 3: Percentage who say supporting Ukraine in its war against Russia _____ (on) U.S. national security

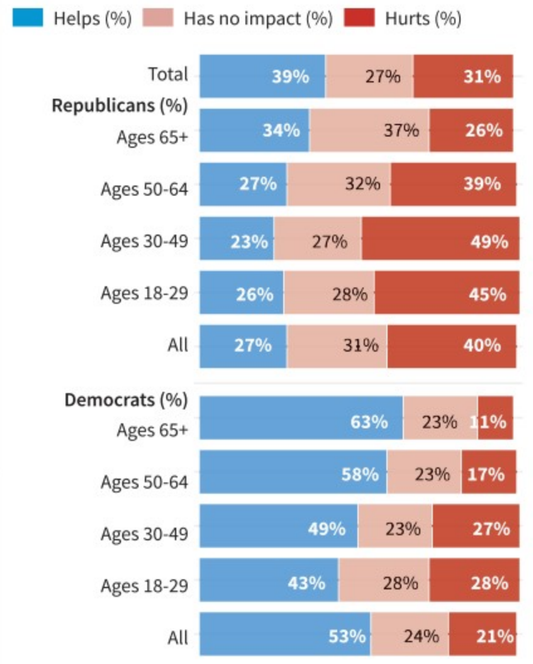


Chart 4: Percentage who think the U.S. benefits _____ from being a member of NATO

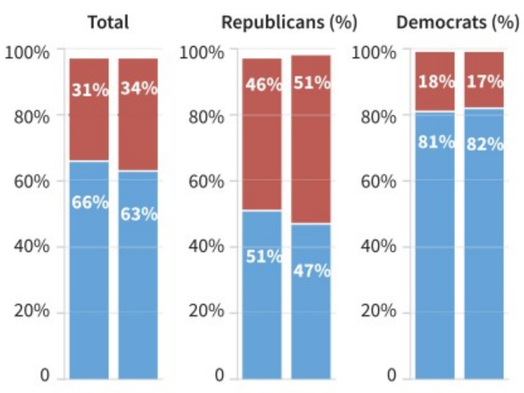
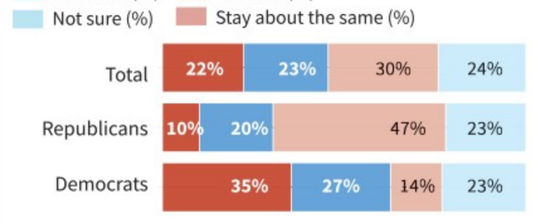


Chart 5: Percentage who say European allies' spending on national defense should _____



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 4, 1975

S. Railway goes in for concrete sleepers

Madras, March 3: As part of the track modernisation programme on Indian Railways, the Southern Railway will be replacing the Madras-Arkonam and Madras-Gudur rail tracks with concrete sleepers instead of the present wooden and cast iron sleepers. These concrete sleepers are expected to give stability to the track to take heavier loads of trains at speeds ranging from 130 10 160 kmph.

Th Railway Board has procured nearly 41 automatic on-track sleeper tampers and Plasser Quick Relaying System (PQRS), which would be used to replace wooden sleepers. The acute shortage of these sleepers and the inadequacy of the old types of metal sleepers to take the stress and strain of heavier and faster traffic have made the Board embark on a fairly large programme for the manufacture of cement concrete sleepers.

The Railway General Sleeper, Mr. G.S.A. Saldanha, inaugurated this morning at Ambattur the track laying function and watched the "on-line-tamper" which fixed the sleepers to the track with ground rubber pads and rail clips to give smooth and efficient service over a long period.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 4, 1925

America's fabulous national wealth

An Index to the enormous national wealth of the United States is provided by the latest financial statistics, covering the year 1922, published by the American Government. The figures form the basis of a full-page article in the "New York Times", which triumphantly alludes to modern America as "the Nabob of the nations." Official estimates show that the national wealth of the United States increased, in millions of dollars, from 186,299 in the year 1912 to the fabulous total of 3,20,803 in 1922. According to comparitive figures complied by American bankers, the national wealth of Great Britain in the same year represented only 88,810 millions of dollars, and that of France 67,710, Germany the fourth nation on the list, is credited with a national wealth of 35,700 millions, or about half of her pre-War figure.

From Page One

SC seeks steps against 'vulgarity' online

"Humour is an art. Humour is something that the entire family can enjoy and nobody feels embarrassed. That is talent. Using filthy language is not talent. Talent is using ordinary words to produce humour. We have excellent comedians in Bollywood. Writers of humour," Justice Kant remarked.

Mr. Mehta said there were comedians who were "very critical" of the government, but did not cross the boundaries of decency and morality. "They are very good people," the top law officer noted.

In the hearing, Mr. Mehta said he was "curious" and had watched the show himself. "Humour is one thing. Vulgarity is another and perversity is at another level. This [the show] cannot be watched by the Attorney-General [who was present in the courtroom] or me together or Your Lordships... The very fact that he chose to take part in it... let him stay quiet for some time," the Solicitor-General, who also represented the States of Maharashtra and Assam, opined.

Justice Kant said the Bench hoped Mr. Allahbadia was experiencing "some repentance".

The application further requested the court to allow Mr. Allahbadia to travel abroad.

But Mr. Mehta said Mr. Allahbadia had not come when he was summoned by the Gauhati Police. Mr. Chandrachud responded that the Gauhati Police did not respond when Mr. Allahbadia had enquired through WhatsApp the date and time for his appearance at the police station.

The Bench directed the Gauhati Police to convey to the YouTuber the date and time of his appearance.

Justice Kant said the request to travel overseas would be considered after he joined the investigation. Meanwhile, the court extended the interim protection from arrest for Mr. Allahbadia.

The court will take up the case again on April 1.

Police yet to understand right to free speech: SC

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Mr. Pratapgarhi, quipped his poems could also be interpreted as '*sadak chaap*'.

The court reserved for judgment the MP's plea to quash the FIR against him. The Gujarat High Court had declined his plea to quash the FIR in January.

The FIR was lodged on the basis of a complaint about an edited video featuring the MP with the poem playing in the background. The 46-second video clip, uploaded by Mr. Pratapgarhi on X, showed flower petals being showered at him as he walks waving his hands. The FIR found the lyrics provocative, detrimental to national unity and hurting religious feelings.

'U.P. woman on death row in UAE executed'

Arrangements were being made to ensure that the family could attend their daughter's last rites in Abu Dhabi, the Ministry said. The UAE authorities informed the embassy on February 28 that the sentence of Ms. Shahzadi was carried out in accordance with local laws, it said.

However, the Ministry's submission in court turned the world upside down for Mr. Khan, a septuagenarian, as he got to know that his two-year-long toil to save his daughter from being executed on a foreign land had been in vain.

Mr. Khan said she travelled to Abu Dhabi in 2021 to live with her employer Nazia, who was pregnant at the time. Ms. Nazia gave birth to a boy in August 2022 and Shahzadi became the baby's caregiver. It was on December 7, 2022 that the infant, who was four months old, received routine vaccination at a hospital and passed away.

The parents had refused post-mortem and even signed a consent letter waiving any further investigation or accusations against any entity for the death of the baby. In February 2023, a video was recorded of the woman's confession "extracted involuntarily through torture, humiliation, and abusive conduct by her employer and her family members," the petition alleged.

Man killed over cow smuggling suspicion

In the present case, three of the accused – Pankaj, Nikhil, and Devraj – belong to Palwal, and the two others – Pawan and Naresh – are residents of Gurugram and Nuh, respectively.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Crime, Manoj Verma said the driver and the helper were transporting two dairy cattle in a pickup truck from Rajasthan to Lucknow on the night of February 22 when they lost their way and ran into the accused, who were riding motorcycles.

The members of the alleged cow vigilante group kidnapped the two on suspicion of cow smuggling, beat them up and threw them into a canal in Gurugram's Sohna.

Based on the complaint of Balkishan, a First Information Report was registered at the Camp Police Station, and an investigation was initiated.

Deceased Sandeep was a resident of Ganganagar in Rajasthan.

HC halts ACB action against ex-SEBI chief, others till today

Court will hear petitions by Buch, BSE MD Sundararaman Ramamurthy, and others seeking to quash an order for an FIR against them for alleged stock market fraud and regulatory violations

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday asked the Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) not to act until Tuesday on a special court order directing it to register a first information report against former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and five others for alleged stock market fraud, regulatory violations, and corruption linked to the listing of a company in 1994.

The special court on March 1 directed the ACB to register an FIR against Ms. Buch; whole-time SEBI Directors Ashwani Bhatia, Ananth Narayan G. and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney; BSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sundararaman Ramamurthy; and its former Chairman and Public Interest Director Pramod Agarwal.

Quick relief: Madhabi Puri Buch and others moved the High Court challenging the March 1 special court order. FILE PHOTO

Ms. Buch and the others moved the High Court seeking to quash the order. The High Court will hear the matter on Tuesday. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Ms. Buch and the three SEBI officials, and senior counsel Amit Desai, for the BSE officials, mentioned the petitions for urgent hearing before a single Bench of Justice Shivkumar Dige.

Special ACB Court judge Shashikant Eknathrao Bangar had said in his order, "The allegations disclose a cognisable offence, necessitating an investigation. There is prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses and collusion, requiring a fair and impartial probe. The inaction by law enforcement and SEBI necessitates judicial intervention under Section 156(3) CrPC."

He directed the ACB of Worli in Mumbai to register an FIR under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Corruption Act, the SEBI Act, and other applicable laws.

"The investigation shall be monitored by this court. A status report shall be submitted within 30 days," the order said.

The petitioners argued before the High Court that the special court order was legally unsustainable as they had not even been issued a notice or were heard before a decision was taken against them.

The complaint in this case was filed by Sapan Shrivastava, 47, a legal reporter from Dombivali in Maharashtra's Thane district. He sought registration of FIR and investigation into alleged large-scale financial fraud, regulatory violations, and corruption.

The charges pertain to the alleged fraudulent listing of Cals Refineries Ltd. on the stock exchange in 1994, with the active connivance of regulatory authorities, particularly SEBI, without compliance under the SEBI Act, 1992.

Visually challenged persons suitable for judicial service: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a significant judgment on Monday, held that visually challenged candidates cannot be found unsuitable for judicial service.

"If there is one principle that forms part of the bedrock of the Constitution, it is 'inclusivity' on which also rests the doctrine of equality," a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan observed in a 122-page judgment.

The court said it was high time Parliament considered amending Article 15 of the Constitution to include 'disability' as a ground for non-discrimination.

"'Disability' as a ground for non-discrimination was not included in Article 15. A constitutional amendment to Article 15 to address this glaring omission has been a long-standing demand of the disability rights movement," Justice Pardiwala, who authored the judgment, noted.

The top court said any indirect discrimination that results in the exclusion of persons with disabilities (PwD) from judicial service, that is, either through rigid cut-offs or procedural barriers, must be removed to uphold substantive equality.

Differently abled persons who have the requisite educational qualifications for applying to the posts under judicial service must not be ignored.

The court said relaxation could be done in assessing suitability of candidates when enough PwDs were not available after selection in their respective category and in accordance with the Rules.

Separate cut-off

"A separate cut-off is to be maintained and selection made accordingly for visually impaired candidates," Justice Pardiwala directed.

The judgment was based on a letter written by the mother of a visually impaired judicial service aspirant in Madhya Pradesh.

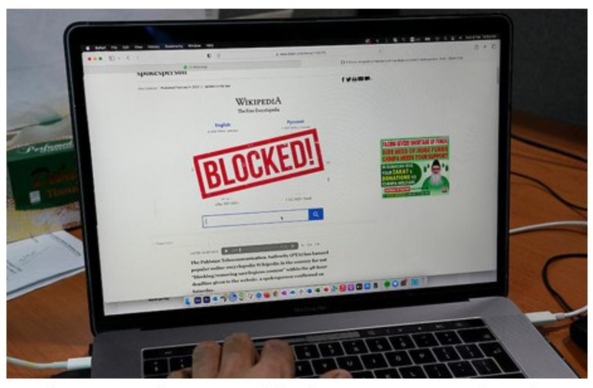
The court had taken suo motu cognisance of the letter that she had sent.

Supreme Court to examine plea against Rules on blocking of online content without notice

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the response of the government on a plea challenging Rules empowering it to block content on social media platforms without prior notice or fair hearing to persons who upload them.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai issued notice to the Union of India and Ministry of Electronics and Information on a writ petition filed by Software Freedom Law Center, represented by senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Paras Nath Singh, challenging provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.



IT Rules, 2009 make it optional for the government to inform the creator about the proposed action to block content. FILE PHOTO

Rules 8 and 9 make it optional for the government to inform the original creator of the online content about the proposed action to block it. In fact, Rule 9 allows the government to block content in cases of "emergency" with hardly a word to the creator of the information.

The petition said Rule 9 is put to arbitrary use as an emergency provision to block user content. Lack of prior notice, a reasoned order, a procedure to address grievances or even an opportunity to be heard leave online content creators in the dark without a legal recourse.

"There could be a mandate on the state to give notice to original creators if they are identifiable," Justice Gavai remarked.

Ms. Jaising said the right to be put to notice and a fair hearing were intrinsic to the freedom of speech and expression.

She said the opacity is worsened by Rule 16 which facilitates a blanket confidentiality regarding blocking requests, complaints and actions taken for blocking information.

Prior notice to the intermediary does not protect the rights of the content creator. The intermediary has no obligation to represent the originator or provide a defence on their behalf. Online intermediaries are protected by the 'safe harbour' clause under Section 79 (an intermediary shall not be liable for any third party information) of the Information Technology Act.

They have no option but to comply with the government's blocking action to not jeopardise their operations in the country.

Ms. Jaising said the government takes advantage of the language of Rules 8 and 9, which allow the designated authority to issue notice of the proposed blocking action either to the intermediary concerned or the original creator. The notice inevitably goes to the intermediary. Ms. Jaising said the 'or' should be replaced with 'and' so that both creators and intermediaries get the blocking notice. Rule 16, on the other hand, must simply be struck down as unconstitutional.

Man arrested for murder of Haryana Cong. worker

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Two days after the body of Congress worker Himani Narwal was found inside a suitcase at Sampla in Rohtak, the Haryana Police on Monday arrested her friend, a 30-year-old mobile repair shop owner, in connection with the murder.

K.K. Rao, Additional Director-General of Police, Rohtak Range, said the accused, Sachin, alias Dhillu, had befriended Himani on social media over a year ago. He strangled her with a mobile cord on February 28 after an altercation between the two over money. The accused had come to Himani's house on the evening of February 27 and stayed overnight, he said.

Court seeks NIA response to Baramulla MP's bail plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to respond to Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid's plea for bail to attend the upcoming Parliament session.

Arrested in a terror funding case in 2019, Mr. Rashid is currently lodged in Tihar jail. He was given interim bail on multiple occasions, including for campaigning in his constituency during the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election and to take oath.

This time too, Mr. Rashid sought the relief on the grounds that he is a parliamentarian and needed to attend the upcoming session to fulfil his public duty.

The second part of Parliament's Budget Session will begin on March 10 and end on April 4.

Additional sessions judge Chander Jit Singh of the Patiala House Court asked the Central agency to file its reply by March 5.

India launches multi-nation alliance for collaboration on sustainable development

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Monday launched the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3), a multi-nation alliance for city-to-city collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and private sector partnerships for sustainable urban development.

This forum would provide a critical platform for policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and development partners to discuss and implement sustainable solutions for waste management and resource efficiency as economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Reuse and recycle

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a special written message to delegates at the launch, said India follows and strongly advocates the P (Pro-Planet People) approach and highlighted the role of 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) and circular economy principles in ensuring sustainable urban development and resource efficiency.

Narendra Modi

He also mentioned that India has always been more than willing to share its experiences and learning in its journey towards creating a circular economy. "We propose that a working group of member nations be formed after this forum to finalise the coalition's structure and operational framework," he said.

A key Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for CITIIS 2.0 was also signed at the launch event in Jaipur.

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal announced that agreements worth ₹1,800 crore will be signed under this initiative, benefiting 18 cities across 14 States, and serving as lighthouse projects for other urban areas.

Environmental issues

The Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific was launched in 2009 to promote sustainable waste management, resource efficiency, and circular economy principles across the region. Recognising the environmental challenges posed by rapid economic growth, resource depletion, and rising waste generation, the forum has served as a key platform for policy dialogue and capacity building.

A major milestone was the adoption of the Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023), which outlined 33 voluntary goals for shifting towards a more resource-efficient and circular economy.

SC notice to Gujarat govt. on journalist Mahesh Langa's pleas

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Gujarat government on petitions filed by *The Hindu*'s Ahmedabad correspondent, Mahesh Langa, against two orders of the State High Court declining him regular bail on February 6 in separate cases.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice and listed the petitions in two weeks after senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Meenakshi Arora and advocates Abhimanue Shrestha and Sridevi Panikkar, appearing for Mr. Langa, said he had already spent 70 days in custody.

Ms. Arora submitted that the co-accused persons were on bail. To Justice Nath's query about his appearance in the case, Mr. Sibal replied, "We have to stand by some people".

The petitions referred to FIRs filed in Rajkot and Ahmedabad on the basis of complaints filed by the Superintendents of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), Anti-Evasion Section.

The allegations in the two cases refer to using fraudulent means to obtain GST registration to receive and transfer bogus Input Tax Credit. Mr. Sibal said his client was not in any way connected to the enterprise accused of receiving bogus Input Tax Credit. Mr. Langa was arrested in both cases in December last year.

On the Ahmedabad FIR, the lawyers argued it was lodged after an inordinate and unexplained delay of over 18 months. Further, the petition contended that though the allegations constitute offences covered by the penal provisions of GST Act, only provisions of the Indian Penal Code were invoked in the case.

"This is a deliberate attempt to bypass procedural safeguards provided under the GST Act," the petition submitted.

Rising fury: Students hold a protest rally to condemn violence and demand the resignation of Bratya Basu. DEBASISH BHADURI

Left-Trinamool Cong. violence spreads to multiple districts

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Clashes erupted across several colleges and universities in West Bengal on Monday, as student activists associated with Left parties and Trinamool Congress supporters engaged in violence.

The students' unions called for a strike across higher educational institutions in the State, demanding the resignation of West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu.

Clashes were reported at the University of North Bengal, Vidyasagar University, and Murshidabad University, and in the district of Cooch Behar where Left and Trinamool activists came face to face and were seen pushing and shoving each other.

Trinamool workers were seen attacking woman students in Medinipur College. Several activists of the All-India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO), the student wing of the SUCI (Communist), were detained by the police in Cooch Behar district.

Srijan Bhattacharya, a leader of the Students' Federation of India, said the strike was part of the democratic right of students and despite certain differences, all the Left students' unions have come together in supporting the agitation.

"The demand of holding students' elections in universities and colleges is a rightful demand of student community and the SFI will support it," he said.

Government institutions such as Presidency College and Jadavpur University remained deserted. Students did not enter classrooms in solidarity with their injured peers. They held rallies raising slogans condemning the violence against students and police action against them.

'What better to expect'

Senior CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty and a former MLA were locked up in their Baruipur party office by Trinamool workers. Mr. Chakraborty reacted to the heckling and said, "The party which can run over students, what better can be expected of them?"

Trinamool to give more 'evidence' on voter ID row

Congress accuses Election Commission of being complicit in voter list manipulation; INDIA bloc to likely raise issue in the second part of the Budget Session of Parliament beginning on March 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Voicing issues: Trinamool Congress leaders Sagarika Ghose, Derek O'Brien and Kirti Azad during a press conference in New Delhi, on Monday. R V MOORTHY

Rejecting the Election Commission's clarification on the issue of duplicate voter identity cards, the Trinamool Congress said here on Monday that the poll panel had admitted to the error, but had not "accepted it". The party promised to produce more evidence on the issue within 24 hours.

Wading into the row, the Congress on Monday evening issued a statement accusing the commission of being complicit in voter list manipulation. Sources said the INDIA bloc would unitedly raise the issue in the second part of the Budget Session that begins on March 10.

Derek O'Brien, accompanied by Trinamool Rajya Sabha Deputy Leader Sagarika Ghose and Lok Sabha member Kirti Azad, shared a list containing the details of 129 voter ID cards from West Bengal and Haryana that had the same number.

"We want only residents of a State to vote in that State. Only voters of Bengal vote in Bengal... Voters will not be allowed to vote as their votes will be cast by people with identical EPIC numbers," Mr. O'Brien said. He alleged it was an attempt to allow voters from other States to vote in West Bengal that goes to the polls next year. "This is unacceptable," he said at a press conference in New Delhi.

Mr. O'Brien said the EC's statement on Sunday was an admission of the error but it had not accepted it yet. "Limited appreciation of the EC. I say limited because EC is admitting the error but not accepting the error. In the next 24 hours, we humbly ask the EC to also accept the error. If not, we will share a document at 9 a.m. on Tuesday morning," he said.

In a statement, the Congress's newly constituted Empowered Action Group of Leaders and Experts (EAGLE) on electoral issues, without naming the Trinamool, said that there were some "startling developments" on the issue of voter list manipulation. "A unique ID for every Indian voter is the fundamental requirement and premise of a clean voter list. Multiple voters having the same voter identity number is as bizarre as multiple vehicles bearing the same registration number in the country. It is unheard-of in any electoral democracy," the statement said.

The Congress recalled its earlier allegation about manipulation of electoral rolls in Maharashtra.

"It is clear that the ruling BJP wins or attempts to win elections by manipulating voter lists in connivance with the Election Commission," the statement said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday had raised the issue first. She alleged that the BJP was adding fake voters from other States to the electoral rolls in Bengal.

"The names of outsiders have been added to the voter list, so that people of Bengal are unable to cast their votes. Outsiders from Bihar, Haryana and other States will be brought to Bengal by trains to win the Bengal election," she said. Responding to her allegation, the poll panel had said it would rectify the issue and update its technology-driven platform.

The poll authority asserted that while the EPIC numbers of some of the voters "may be identical", other information, including demographic details, Assembly constituency and polling booth, was different.

RJD leader writes to Bihar Council Chair for reinstatement

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Sunil Kumar Singh celebrating after the court reinstated his membership on February 25.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Sunil Kumar Singh on Monday wrote to Awadhesh Narain Singh, Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council, to immediately reinstate his membership in the Council in compliance with a judgment of the Supreme Court delivered on February 25.

Despite the Supreme Court order, the Council Secretariat has not issued any official letter allowing him to attend the ongoing Budget session. Mr. Singh's membership was terminated last year after he mocked Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Following this, a byelection was announced for his vacant post.

Last Tuesday, the Supreme Court reinstated Mr. Singh to the Council, setting aside the Election Commission notification for a byelection to his seat.

"Earlier also I have reminded your office and once again respectfully requested to reinstate my membership in the Bihar Legislative Council with immediate effect, in compliance with the judgment of the Supreme Court," Mr. Singh said in the letter.

"Your esteemed office is well known for upholding the Constitution and the Rule of Law and the Supreme Court has issued a clear and binding directive regarding my reinstatement. Para 88(e): The petitioner is directed to be reinstated as a member of the BLC with immediate effect."

Contempt of court

Mr. Singh pointed out in the letter that under Articles 141 and 142 of the Constitution, all orders of the Supreme Court were binding across the country and must be complied with immediately, in both letter and spirit. He added that any delay in implementing the judgment may be considered non-compliance with a binding constitutional directive and may amount to contempt of court.

"It is also pertinent to bring to your kind notice that the Supreme Court has already held that the presiding officer of a legislative body is answerable and amenable to the Supreme Court's directives. Therefore, I humbly request that my reinstatement be formally notified at the earliest, in compliance with the Supreme Court's order, so that I can raise the issue of public concern in the ongoing Budget session," Mr. Singh said.

External Affairs Minister to visit U.K., Ireland to strengthen bilateral ties

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON/NEW DELHI

In Ireland, S. Jaishankar will meet his counterpart, Simon Harris, and other officials.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit the Republic of Ireland and the U.K. this week to deepen ties with both countries. The visit comes days after the EU College of Commissioners visited New Delhi and after India and the U.K. relaunched trade negotiations on February 24. The visit comes at a challenging time for European countries which have been renegotiating their relationship with the United States, since U.S. President Donald Trump's return to the White House.

In the U.K., Mr. Jaishankar is scheduled to open a consulate in Belfast (the capital of Northern Ireland) and Manchester. Apart from the High Commission in London, India's U.K. missions include consulates in Birmingham and Edinburgh, in addition to honorary consulates in Cardiff, Belfast and Newcastle Upon Tyne.

The Minister is also due to meet U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy and other officials, the government said, previewing his visit in a statement. He is also scheduled to speak on "India's rise and role in the world" at Chatham House, the London-based think-tank, on March 5.

In Ireland, the Minister will meet his counterpart Simon Harris and other officials. Mr. Jaishankar is also expected to sign an MoU for a diplomat exchange programme. The two countries are expected to announce the India-Ireland Joint Economic Commission, an official told *The Hindu*. This is the highest-level government visit since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ireland in September 2015.

Cong. leader's tweet on Rohit kicks up a storm; outright pathetic, says Mandaviya

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mansukh Mandaviya

A social media post by Congress spokesperson Shama Mohamed on Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma's body weight triggered a political controversy, with the Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday stepping in to advise Congress and Trinamool Congress leaders to "leave sportspersons alone".

"Remarks made by leaders from these parties, indulging in body-shaming and questioning an athlete's place in the team, are not only deeply shameful but also outright pathetic," Mr. Mandaviya said on X.

In her now-deleted post, Ms. Mohamed had said that the Indian captain is "fat for a sportsman." "Need to lose weight! And of course the most unimpressive Captain India has ever had!" she wrote.

Reprimanding Ms. Mohamed for her comments, the Congress urged her to delete the post on the Indian cricket team captain. Taking to X, Pawan Khera, who heads the party's media and publicity wing, said Ms. Mohamed's view does not reflect the party's position.

"The Congress, which has lost over 90 elections under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, is now body-shaming the Indian cricket captain, at a time when our national team is in pursuit of the Champions Trophy! This is a premeditated put down to undermine the team's morale at a crucial time," said Amit Malviya, the BJP IT Cell in-charge, on X.

Ms. Mohamed struck a defiant note and said that she was entitled to her views in a democracy. "I always believed a sportsperson should be fit, and I felt he was a bit overweight, so I just tweeted about that. I have been attacked for no reason," she said.

BSP chief Mayawati expels Akash from party

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

A day after removing her nephew Akash Anand from all key posts, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, on Monday, said she has expelled him from the party "in the interest and movement" of the party.

On Sunday, Mr. Akash was relieved from all responsibilities as he was under the continuous influence of his father-in-law Ashok Siddharth, more than the interest of the party, for which he should "repent and show his maturity", she said. "But on the contrary, the lengthy response given by *Shri* Akash is mostly selfish, arrogant and non-missionary under the influence of his father-in-law," BSP chief said in a post on X.

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- Exposure to the frontline research areas at the world-class Laboratories / research groups
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APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Applications are to be submitted online only at **https://www.iiseradmission.in**
- Applicants must carefully go through the instructions and the FAQ section on the website before filling up the form.
- A non-refundable application fee of ₹2000 (₹ 1000 for SC/ST/Kashmiri Migrant/Kashmiri Pandits/Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-migrant)/ PwD candidates) is applicable.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates who have passed class XII/equivalent examination in science stream (in 2023, 2024, or 2025) with minimum 60% marks (55% for SC/ST/PwD) are eligible to apply for IISER Aptitude Test (IAT) 2025.
For more details visit -
https://www.iiseradmission.in/examination/eligibility.html
All admissions will be only through IAT 2025

SCHOLARSHIP

Admitted students may be eligible for competitive INSPIRE scholarship as per the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India norms.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Portal Opens on	March 10, 2025
Last Date for Online Applications	April 15, 2025
IISER Aptitude Test	May 25, 2025

All inquiries must be addressed to:
CHAIRPERSON, JOINT ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE 2025
Email: ask2025@jac.iisertirupati.ac.in, Website: https://www.iiseradmission.in
Phone: +91-877-2500910 (2 PM to 5 PM, Working Days)

SCAN ME

INBRIEF

Tiger Zeenat to be released into larger enclosure soon

Tiger Zeenat, which had strayed into Jharkhand and West Bengal in December before being tranquillised and brought back to Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), is expected to be released into a larger enclosure as part of a phased acclimatisation process. Odisha's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Prem Kumar Jha said the bigger enclosure was ready for Zeenat, which is currently in a small enclosure spread over two hectares of forestland inside the STR'. The three-year-old female tiger was earlier translocated from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to the STR to boost the reserve's big cat population.

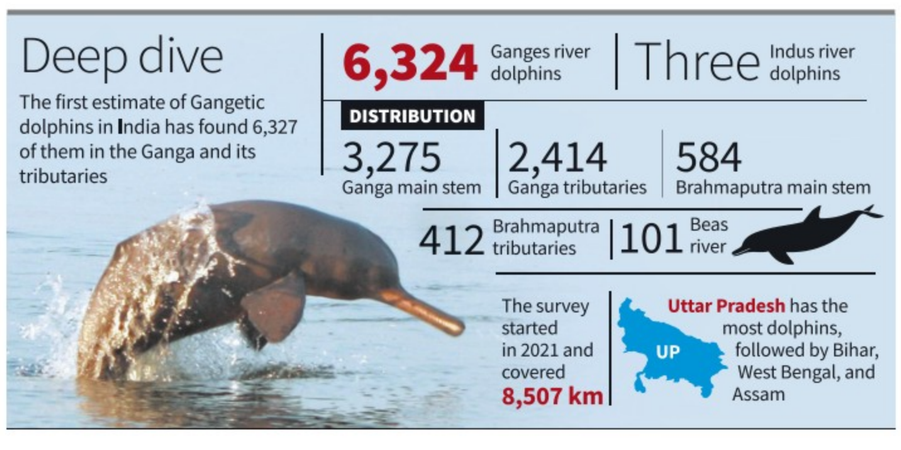
PM chairs wildlife Board meet, announces conservation plans

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced the Asiatic lion population estimation exercise in May and unveiled conservation plans for tigers, gharials and a critically endangered bird, while pushing for using AI to combat forest fires and human-animal conflicts. He made a slew of announcements while chairing the seventh meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), in his capacity as ex-officio chairperson, at Sasan in Gujarat's Junagadh district. At the meeting, which coincided with World Wildlife Day, Mr. Modi virtually laid the foundation stone of a National Referral Centre for Wildlife at Junagadh. PTI

Study finds 6,327 Gangetic dolphins across four States

Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases the report; since different methods were used for the previous counts, latest number will not be useful in gauging the change in population

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI


Deep dive
The first estimate of Gangetic dolphins in India has found 6,327 of them in the Ganga and its tributaries
6,324 Ganges river dolphins
Three Indus river dolphins
DISTRIBUTION
3,275 Ganga main stem
2,414 Ganga tributaries
584 Brahmaputra main stem
412 Brahmaputra tributaries
101 Beas river
The survey started in 2021 and covered 8,507 km
Uttar Pradesh has the most dolphins, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam
UP

The first estimate of Gangetic dolphins, the only riverine dolphins in India, has found 6,327 of them in the Ganga and its tributaries. Previous attempts at mapping the population have relied on vastly different methods, and so the latest number is not useful for insight on whether their numbers have changed over time, experts associated with the study told *The Hindu*.

A press report by the Environment Ministry on Monday, World Wildlife Day, said there were 6,324 Ganges river dolphins, and three Indus river dolphins (a related species). There were an average 3,275 dolphins in the main stem of the Ganga; 2,414 in the Ganga tributaries; 584 in the Brahmaputra main stem; 412 in the Brahmaputra tributaries; and 101 in the Beas river. The effort began in 2021 and spanned a cumulative distance of 8,507 km.

Unlike the counting of tigers, elephants and other land animals in the forest, counting dolphins is challenging. For one, the animals are under water and surface only sporadically to breathe. Second, unlike the tiger's stripes and the elephants' ears that can be caught on camera and used to distinguish one animal from the other, individual dolphins cannot be uniquely identified this way. For their survey, the researchers travelled by boat at a constant speed using acoustic hydrophones – essentially underwater microphones – that pick up sounds emitted by the dolphins. The animals are blind and rely on echolocation to communicate and move.

"Using hydrophones and two different sets of observers on the boat, we triangulate the presence of a dolphin, and we also have to ensure that the same dolphin isn't counted twice," Qamar Qureshi, formerly of the Wildlife Institute of India and closely connected with the survey, said.

Next survey

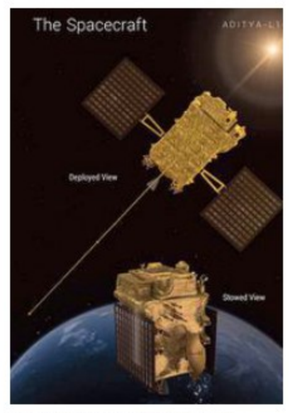
The next survey will likely take place after four years. For the current study, many of the surveyors had to be trained in the new techniques that were required. "The major challenge to dolphins is getting entangled in fishermen's nets, but we are now studying the effect of pollution on the dolphins' habitat," Mr. Qureshi added.

The dolphin report was officially made public on Monday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a visit to Gujarat, where he chaired a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife. He said that the local populations (in the Gangetic States) were important for conservation measures, and added that schoolchildren ought to be encouraged to visit dolphin habitat.

The highest number of dolphins were reported in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

ISRO releases second set of scientific data from Aditya mission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The Aditya-L1 mission was launched in 2023 by the ISRO aboard the PSLV C-57 rocket.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the second set of scientific data from the Aditya-L1 solar mission.

"The datasets comprise valuable scientific information about the Sun's photosphere, chromosphere and its outer atmosphere (corona) along with the in-situ particles and magnetic field measurements at first Earth-Sun Lagrange Point L1," the ISRO said.

Widely accessible

The Aditya L1 datasets will be accessible from the Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) portal.

To access the Aditya-L1 data via the ISSDC website, visit www.issdc.gov.in/adityal1.html, and navigate to the data download section. Data may be accessed directly on PRADAN portal links pradan.issdc.gov.in/al1 or pradan1.issdc.gov.in/al1.

"ISRO encourages the community of researchers and students to utilise these datasets. The user manuals to analyse Aditya-L1 payload data are also available on the above web address after registration," the ISRO said.

The maiden datasets from Aditya-L1 were released by the ISRO on January 6, and a national meet was organised.

Third revolution

Aditya-L1, at present, is observing the sun during its third revolution in the halo orbit around the Lagrange Point (L1).

The Aditya-L1 mission was launched on September 2, 2023 by the ISRO aboard the PSLV C-57 rocket.

On January 6, 2024, the spacecraft was successfully placed in a large halo orbit around the first Earth-Sun Lagrange Point known as Lagrange Point (L1).

The L1 point is 1.5 million kilometres from earth towards the Sun.

High-powered defence committee identifies key thrust areas for modernisation of IAF

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Empowered Committee for Capability Enhancement of the Indian Air Force, headed by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, identified key thrust areas and made recommendations for medium- and long-term measures in its report presented to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday.

In the report, the IAF had listed priorities for addressing the shortfall in fighter jet numbers, an official source said. The recommendations will be looked at in a holistic manner and the government is open to take necessary measures, the source added.

The high-powered committee was constituted on the back of huge delays in fighter induction in the IAF amid rapid modernisation efforts by adversaries. "The report also underscores the need for impetus to enhance 'Aatmanirbharta' in the aerospace domain with the private sector complementing the effort of Defence Public Sector Undertakings and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)," a Ministry statement said.

Rajnath Singh flanked by Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, left, and Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

The Defence Minister appreciated the work of the committee and directed that the recommendations be followed up in a time-bound manner, it stated.

Indigenisation will be a key aspect, with significant involvement of the private sector to bring in efficiency and quickly ramp up capacities, sources stated adding that the measures needed in the near and short term will be time bound.

The committee was formed on the directions of the Defence Minister to "holistically" examine all issues and prepare a clear plan of action. It was chaired by the Defence Secretary, with the Vice Chief of Air Staff; Secretary, Defence Production; Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, and Chairman DRDO; and the Director-General, Acquisition, as members; and the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff as Member Secretary.

The report was meant to be submitted by the end of January but saw some delay.

The IAF is currently at 31 fighter squadrons as against the sanctioned strength of 42.5. While deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft-Mk1A were delayed, several of the existing fighter jets, such as the Jaguar, MIG-29UPG and Mirage-2000, will also be phased out by the end of this decade.

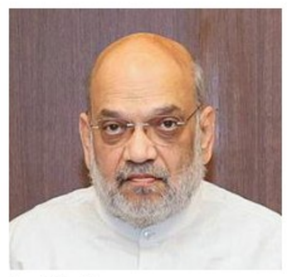
The bigger and more capable LCA-Mk2 is under development while the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the country's fifth generation jet, is at least a decade away.

The IAF must add 35 to 40 fighter jets every year to fill the shortage in numbers, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh had said last Friday.

He added that Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. had promised to produce 24 Tejas Mark-1A jets next year.

For 100% circularity in dairy sector, go beyond dung and process skin, bones: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Amit Shah

Maintaining that developing the dairy sector is probably the only way to control the exodus of people from villages to cities, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said circularity in the sector should not be limited to processing dung, but should include using skin and bones of the cattle and making machinery used in the segment in the cooperative sector.

Inaugurating a workshop on "Sustainability and circularity in dairy sector" organised by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying here on Monday, Mr. Shah directed the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to seek the possibilities of organising small cooperatives at the level of villages to process skin and bones of cattle.

"Skin and bones should not be sent to unorganised sector. Small cooperatives can be asked to process this skin and sell it to companies that make shoes. This will earn profit for farmers," he said adding that 100% circularity should be the aim of cooperatives.

On processing dung and producing biogas, he said cooperatives should help private dairies in the process. He added that cooperatives should be able to make all machines in the dairy sector and should start exporting it to the global market.

'Profit for people'

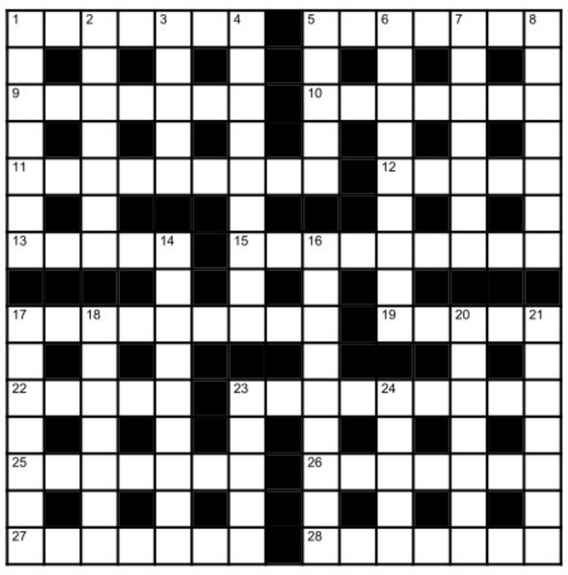
"At present, the emphasis should be given on setting up the entire chain from farm to factory in the village itself. To uplift marginal farmers, it is crucial to map a journey from villages to the global stage, fostering confidence through collective efforts and establishing a comprehensive farm-to-factory value chain," Mr. Shah said. He added that the objective of cooperatives was to earn profit and to put "people first". "We can realise the principle of 'profit for people' only through cooperatives," he added.

TH CROSSWORD + 14423

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Nick trimmed perfect cut of meat (7)
5 A dog taking out heroin in the old African capital (7)
9 Skipping prayer with priest in club? (7)
10 Bits of emerald and ruby on Miss Luxembourg's scarf (7)
11 Lone wolf Carol gave the game away (9)
12 Hear college contest lost money (5)
13 Mark briefly bet 1000 (5)
15 Powerful caucus controlling state of crude oil - cunning, extremely greedy groups (9)
17 Preposterous cess on stocking individual parts of rockets (9)
19 Fires rifles (5)
22 Wrong answer by young girl (5)
23 Epic tale about drowning island's extremity (9)
25 Blind dog removing top from soil (7)
26 Appears hotel's fencing the field in which I get audience (7)
27 Women's shawl from India showed up at Tanzanian borders (7)
28 Procession of fighters in New York? (7)

Down

1 Numbness starts to exhaust some getting entertained in French city (7)
2 Rector and church groups land in court (7)
3 Recess in waffle iron fixed up (5)
4 Girl wearing fancy thing with private item of attire (9)
5 State of Avtaar overwhelmed by desire (5)
6 Executives reworked discounted cash flow mostly with future interest increases, to start with (9)
7 Essence of article on unusual lion from an African river basin (7)
8 Lathery, plastic material (7)
14 Boot in bond vehicle described by Spooner (9)
16 Enemy hints about following through, nevertheless (2,5,2)
17 Greek character moved to music topless with distinct changes in expression (7)
18 Waken, pinching top of right ear's bone (7)
20 Russian who produced dramatic outcomes announced king is threatened and finished queen off (7)
21 Light outside officer's lodge (7)
23 Pacific island's Indian coach (5)
24 Do section 25/26 (5)

SUDOKU

	2		8		5	6		1
1		8			6			
			2			5		
6						3		
	9	2				1	4	
		3						7
		7			8			
			7			4		9
3		1	4		2		5	

No.SS6448 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

L	O	N	E	L	I	N	E	S	S		R	A	M	P
U		O		E		E		P			L		R	
S	A	N	D	A	L	W	O	O	D		F	L	E	E
H		E		D		S		N		S		N		S
			S	I	A	M	E	S	E	T	W	I	N	S
S		O		N		E		O		R		G		U
H	A	N	D	G	U	N		R	O	U	G	H	E	R
O		A		L					C		T		I	
R	O	L	L	I	C	K		L	E	T	T	E	R	S
T		L		G		A		A		U		R		E
O	F	F	T	H	E	R	E	C	O	R	D			
R		O		T		A		T		A		S		I
D	A	U	B			N	O	S	E	B	L	E	E	D	S
E		R				K		A		L		R		L
R	E	S	T			S	E	L	L	B	Y	D	A	T	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	9	7	8	2	4	1	6	5
6	4	1	5	9	3	2	8	7
2	8	5	6	7	1	9	4	3
1	6	2	3	8	7	5	9	4
8	5	3	4	6	9	7	1	2
9	7	4	1	5	2	6	3	8
5	3	9	7	1	8	4	2	6
4	2	6	9	3	5	8	7	1
7	1	8	2	4	6	3	5	9

FAITH

Detachment of desires

The best example of Karma Yoga is the grandsire Bhishma. He dedicated all his deeds to Lord Krishna. He was stubborn in his resolve to protect the kingdom of Hastinapura and did not hesitate to wage war for it. Princess Amba narrated to sage Parasurama that Bhishma was the cause of her blighted life. Parasurama espoused her cause and challenged Bhishma. Undaunted by Parasurama, his Guru, who taught him everything, Bhishma fought with the sage, though Bhishma was no less in showing his reverence to the Guru as he was the best karma yogi. When Duryodhana slandered and cast aspersions on Bhishma, he said, "I may be loving and pouring affection towards Pandavas, but I will not be an ingrate or devious to you in the battle."

Navalpakkam Sri Vasudevachariar said in a discourse that a mother is the best Karmayogi who grooms her child, braving against all odds and impediments. If the child grows well and becomes a good personality, that is the fruit of the mother's efforts, which results from God's blessings.

A mother rejoices at the birth of her son, but even more so when he is praised as a nobleman (*Eendra pozhudin* – kural 69). Lord Krishna says, "Do your duty and leave the rest to Me."

Controlling one's mind is essential. Lord Krishna suggested two ways: practice godly deeds and detach from desires and worldly pleasures. It should not be the other way around. Vedas say desires are like the ocean. Detachment is the prelude to Karma Yoga. Anger is an extension of desires. If we control desires, anger will not develop.

INBRIEF

MIIs implement direct payout scheme mechanism

Market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) comprising stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories, said they had successfully implemented the Direct Payout Settlement mechanism for securities under the guidance of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). "This initiative enhances efficiency, transparency, and investor protection, ensuring seamless direct credit of securities to clients' demat accounts," they said in a release.

'India Mobile Congress 2025 edition to be held in October'

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia announced at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, that the 2025 edition of the India Mobile Congress, organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), will be held between October 8 and 11. The event brings together telecom operators, equipment manufacturers and government bodies showcasing their telecom advances.

Poonawalla Fincorp unveils loan product for salaried class

Poonawalla Fincorp has unveiled a digital personal loan offering designed to meet the needs of salaried professionals seeking quick access to credit. The PL Prime Digital 24x7 Loan enables eligible customers to bypass traditional loan processes and avail loans up to ₹15 lakh in just 15 minutes. It also provides the flexibility to choose longer EMI tenures and comes with zero collateral requirement, the NBFC said.

Feb. manufacturing PMI slips on slowdown in sales growth

Although output growth slowed to the weakest level since December 2023, overall momentum in India's manufacturing sector remained broadly positive in February: HSBC Chief Economist

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's private sector manufacturing activity, as measured by the HSBC Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index, slowed to 56.3 on sales growing the slowest in more than a year in February 2025, according to a statement from HSBC.

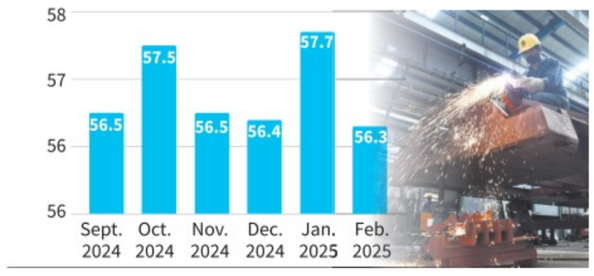
The metric was 57.7 in the previous month.

A value above 50 implies growth and the PMI has been in the growth territory for 44 months now.

The manufacturing sales and output PMI was down to a 14-month low.

"Robust global demand continued to boost growth in the Indian manufacturing sector, which increased its purchasing activity and employment. Business expectations also remained very strong, with nearly one-third of survey participants foreseeing greater output volumes in the year ahead. Although output growth slowed to the weakest level since December 2023, overall momentum in India's manufacturing sector remained broadly positive in February," said Pranjul Bhandari, India Chief Economist at HSBC.

Manufacturers observed increase in new orders. Export orders on strong global demand in February. Increased export orders also led to increased hiring, reflecting an overall robust business situation. Companies also carried higher labour costs to clients, HSBC said in the release.



Two-wheeler sales decline to continue

S. Ronendra Singh
NEW DELHI

With the latest on-board diagnostic-II B system (OBD II-B) emission norms kicking off from April 1 for two-wheelers, sales in March are likely to drop because original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) will be clearing older stocks during the month. The impact was already felt in the past two months with leading companies reporting decline in sales.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Tesla yet to discuss domestic production plans with Centre

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

A year since a policy offering significant duty cuts for high-value electric vehicles in lieu of domestic production was announced, Tesla is yet to engage in discussions with the Indian government, according to a senior government official.

While there have been three meetings with industry stakeholders since the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars (SPMEPC) in India was notified in March 2024, Tesla participated only in the first meeting and only as an observer, according to the official.

"There is no word from Tesla on manufacturing in India till now," said the official. The scheme offers a lower custom duty of 15% instead of 70% for a period of five years subject to a manufacturer setting up a production facility in India within a three-year period involving a minimum investment of ₹4,150 crore.

The applicant will have to achieve a domestic value addition of minimum 25% by the end of three years and 50% by the end of the fifth year. Last month, the American EV maker posted 13 jobs openings in Mumbai.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries will shortly begin inter-ministerial discussions for finalising guidelines for implementing the scheme, which could be announced "in a month or two," as per the source.

The partner ministries include Finance, Electronics and Information Technology, Commerce and NITI Aayog.

Ola Electric to cut about 1,000 jobs to reduce losses

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Ola Electric Mobility is cutting about 1,000 jobs across different functions as part of a restructuring exercise to reduce losses, according to people aware of the development.

When contacted, the company, which had last year trimmed about 500 jobs, without commenting on the exact number of redundancies, hinted that these were a result of restructuring and automation of front-end operations.

"We have restructured and automated our front-end operations delivering improved margins, reduced cost, and enhanced customer experience while eliminating redundant roles for better productivity," a spokesperson for Ola Electric Mobility said.

The second round of job cuts within five months comes at a time when Ola Electric has been taking strategic moves to boost EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) margins by almost 10 percentage points, besides improving inventory management and hastening customer deliveries.

The firm has eliminated regional warehouses across India, deciding to leverage 4,000 retail stores for vehicle inventory, spare parts and last-mile deliveries. In the third quarter ended December 31, 2024, the firm reported a widening of consolidated net loss at ₹564 crore.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,086	-0.15
US Dollar	87.32	0.05
Gold	87,900	0.22
Brent oil	72.49	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2117.10	21.10
Adani Ports	1053.05	-16.35
Apollo Hosp	6170.60	118.00
Asian Paints	2166.40	-13.35
Axis Bank	1007.25	-8.30
Bajaj Auto	7714.80	-188.10
Bajaj Finserv	1838.55	-33.75
Bajaj Finance	8627.85	97.55
Bharat Elec	257.39	11.14
Bharti Airtel	1595.80	25.60
BPCL	242.41	5.11
Britannia Ind	4596.60	1.15
Cipla	1407.55	0.05
Coal India	360.35	-9.00
Dr Reddys Lab	1119.60	3.10
Eicher Motors	4906.60	133.00
Grasim Ind	2377.45	70.80
HCL Tech	1572.40	-2.65
HDFC Bank	1701.55	-30.85
HDFC Life	618.00	9.50
Hero MotoCorp	3630.75	-50.35
Hindalco	636.55	2.20
Hind Unilever	2176.85	-13.40
ICICI Bank	1206.20	2.10
IndusInd Bank	984.00	-6.10
Infosys	1708.60	20.90
ITC	397.45	2.45
JSW Steel	976.05	25.35
Kotak Bank	1914.60	11.65
L&T	3197.30	33.45
M&M	2611.90	26.80
Maruti Suzuki	11775.60	-170.25
NestleIndia	2185.55	-4.10
NTPC	314.40	2.95
ONGC	225.13	-0.12
PowerGrid Corp	252.50	1.65
Reliance Ind	1171.25	-28.85
SBI Life	1408.50	-22.00
State Bank	695.30	6.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	621.30	4.00
Sun Pharma	1585.10	-8.15
TataConsumerProduct	953.90	-9.80
Tata Motors	621.15	0.50
Tata Steel	138.57	1.37
TCS	3493.05	9.80
Tech Mahindra	1493.05	5.20
Titan	3082.00	4.75
Trent Ltd.	4946.90	95.35
UltraTech Cement	10340.80	212.35
Wipro	283.55	5.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.17	87.49
Euro	91.08	91.42
British Pound	110.24	110.65
Japanese Yen (100)	57.80	58.01
Chinese Yuan	11.95	12.00
Swiss Franc	96.72	97.08
Singapore Dollar	64.64	64.89
Canadian Dollar	60.41	60.66
Malaysian Ringitt	19.52	19.60
Australian Dollar	54.25	54.45

Source:Indian Bank

Ministry of Micro, Small a Medium Enterprises
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes
Data Analytics
Course Content: 1) What is data, 2) How data are sourced, 3) Statistics, 4) Data Cleaning & Transformation, 5) Python & SQL for Data, 6) Excel for Data Analysis, 7) Data Visualization (Using Excel & Power BI), 8) Story telling by the given data, 9) How to make impact full presentation?, 10) Live project session
For Registration
Date : 10th - 21st Mar 2025
Time : 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees : 5900/-(Inclusive of GST)
10 Days (week-days) Online Training Program
For more Details: 8667359360, 9600776611,7358887633
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E-Certificate will be Awarded
Disclaimer: Be aware of fraudulent activities. We never ask to make payment on any personal account.

BRIC NIAB
a DBT Organization
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India
Survey No. 37, Opp. Journalist colony, Extended Q City Road,
Near Gowlidoddi, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 032
Tel: +91 40 2312 0103/115; Email: admin@niab.org.in;
Web: www.niab.res.in
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Advt. No. 08/2025
NIAB, an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity. NIAB invites applications from Indian citizens for the following positions:
Position : Scientist - E | Pay Level - 13 | No of post : 1 - UR
For more details, please visit NIAB website www.niab.res.in
Date of commencement of online applications: 04th March 2025
Last date for submitting online applications: 04th April 2025 by 5 PM
Sd/- DIRECTOR, NIAB

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002
Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL- MANAGED SERVICES FOR M/S EDGEVERVE'S DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT HUB (OMNI CHANNEL PLATFORM) AND ONLINE BANKING (INTERNET BANKING) SOLUTION
BID NO: GEM/2025/B/6008624 DATED: 28.02.2025
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in
Note:- BID NO: GEM/2024/B/5008567 DATED: 03.06.2024 stands cancelled.

TELANGANA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
"Tourism House", # 3-5-891, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029
e-Procurement Tender Notice No. 11/EE/SD/TGTDC/2024-25, Dt.03.03.2025 (3rd call)

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Est. cost Rs. in Lakhs	Bid Downloading Start Date
1	Selection of Agency under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme for Development, Operations, Maintenance and Management of "Eco-Tourism Zone at Ananthagiri", Vikarabad District, Telangana State	3800.60	05.03.2025

Bids are invited on e-Procurement platform from eligible contractors. Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
TGTDC Ltd, Hyderabad.
DIPR R.O.No.10824-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt. 03.03.2025

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001
Corporate Identity No: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry No. 332/3-CSIT dated 03/03/2025
Chief Engineer/IT, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for Selection of Service Provider for Customer Services Call Center (OPEX Mode) for PSPCL by Owning, Operating and Maintaining it. For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 03/03/2025, 15:00 hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C 152/25 76155/12/3970/2023/42134

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD DIVISION SHAHPURA DISTT. BHILWARA
File No:- 6914-923 Date:- 19-2-25
Notice Inviting Bid No. 28/2024-25
Bids for Construction of Sports Stadium Jahazpur, Kotri and Rajivika CLF Building at Pander are invited from interested bidders upto time 9.30 date 25.02.2025 to time 18.00 date 17.03.2025 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PWD department website. The approximate values of the procurement is Rs. 553.77 Lacs
NIB No. :- PWD2425A 4313
UBN No. :- PWD2425WSOB15502, PWD2425WSOB15503, PWD2425WSOB15504
(Shahzad Mohammad)
Executive Engineer
PWD Dn Shahpura Distt. Bhilwara
Email :- eeshahpura.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
Mobile No. 9251414884
DIPR/C/2525/2025

CCL Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Fuelling Sustainable Growth
NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
प्रभारिम शक्ति सूर्यतः
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005
O/o Superintending Engineer (IT) 3rd Floor, Data Centre Building, Old Power House, Jaipur-302006, energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, email: seit@jvvnl.org, 0141-2200972
TENDER INVITING NOTICE
The E-Tender is invited for "Deployment of Fault Rectification Team (FRT) for Jaipur Discom, JVVNL Rajasthan" against TN-107 (UBN No. VVN2425SLOB01227). All the details regarding tender is available on website https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/sppp and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. In future, corrigendum/ extension, if any, shall be published only on above websites.
Raj.Samwad/C/24/12515 JPR-2959 (2025) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (IT)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Expression of Interest is invited from public sector banks and scheduled commercial banks for the Wayanad Township project. The selected banks will have to facilitate the operation of two bank accounts for the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). For further details contact 9539701531 or email to wayanadtownship@gmail.com
Sd/-
Special Officer- Project Implementation Unit
Wayanad Township Project

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (PUNGRAIN)
ANAAJ BHAWAN, SECTOR 39-C, CHANDIGARH
Notice Inviting Tender
Bids are invited from bidders for the purchase of 35000 HDPE Monofilaments Nets for storage of wheat during RMS 2025-26 on behalf of all State Procuring Agencies (Pungrain, PSWC, Punsup and Markfed) in the State of Punjab under two Bid system 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid'.
For details log onto: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. or http://foodsuppb.gov.in
Bid Submission Start Date and Time: 10:00 AM on 04.03.2025
Bid Submission Last Date and Time: 02:00 PM on 18.03.2025.
Date and time of Opening Technical Bid: At 02:30 PM on 18.03.2025.
Pre-bid Conference: On 07.03.2025 at 11:00 AM in the Committee room, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh.
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender shall be published on the above websites only.
NA/12/28420/2023/42161 Managing Director, PUNGRAIN

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Vidwat Sammilan 2025: Exploring Sustainable Development Through Chemistry and Education at Kristu Jayanti College (KJC)

The Department of Life Sciences of KJC (Autonomous) hosted the 11th edition of its flagship program, Vidwat Sammilan, an interactive session designed to promote intellectual discourse and engagement with academic institutional leaders. The event featured notable academician Prof. A.K. Bakhshi, Founding VC of PDM University, Haryana, as the chief guest. This edition of Vidwat Sammilan focused on the theme "Towards Sustainable Development in India: Role of Chemistry and Education." Held at the college campus, the event attracted a large audience of faculty and students from the Departments of Life Sciences and Forensic Sciences. Prof. Bakhshi highlighted the crucial role that Chemistry and education play in achieving sustainable development goals in India. The interactive session following his keynote address allowed attendees to engage in a dynamic discussion, exploring various aspects of sustainable development and challenges facing India. The session was well-received by students and faculty, who appreciated the depth of knowledge and thought-provoking discussions facilitated by Prof. Bakhshi. Dr. Bakhshi was honored by Rev. Father Dr. Lijo P. Thomas, VP and CFO, KJC (Autonomous). The event underscored KJC's commitment to academic excellence and social responsibility. By fostering dialogues on critical issues and real-world problems, the college continues to be a leading institution in driving intellectual and social change.

A One-Day Workshop on "Innovations for a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Future on Earth and Beyond" at MVJ College of Engineering

MVJ College of Engineering hosted 'Vishwa 2025' workshop on February 28, 2025 MVJ College of Engineering (MVJCE), in association with INAE, Bangalore Chapter, hosted 'VISHWA 2025' A One-Day Workshop titled "Innovations for a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Future both on Earth and Beyond". It was inaugurated by Padma Bhushan Dr. B.N. Suresh, Chairman, Board of Governors, MVJCE, Bangalore Founding Director and Chancellor of IIST, Thiruvananthapuram, along with Padma Vibhushan Dr. V K Aatre Former Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Secretary, DRDO, Bengaluru and Dr. S. Gopalakrishnan, Chairman of INAE, Bengaluru Chapter. Inaugural address by Dr. B. N Suresh The event aimed to raise awareness and discuss strategies for tackling climate change through sustainable practices and resilience-building measures. The workshop brought together environmental experts, academicians, and students to engage in meaningful discussions about climate adaptation, renewable energy, and eco-friendly solutions. The workshop was graced with presence of esteemed distinguished guests - Dr. B N Raghunandan, Dean (Retd.) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Member of Board of Governors, MVJCE, Dr. Bala Govindasamy Executive member of the Earth Commission, Future Earth Professor, Center for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, IISc, Bangalore, Dr. K J Vinoy, Professor, IISc, Bangalore. This initiative not only encouraged cutting-edge research but also inspired young minds to 'Offer feasible solutions today for a sustainable and resilient tomorrow'.

St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM Hosts Utkarsh 2025: International Conference on Sustainability and Governance

Recently St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) successfully hosted its seventh International Conference–Utkarsh 2025 in collaboration with Regis University, Denver, USA. The event brought together industry leaders, academicians, and researchers to explore the theme "Environment, Sustainability, and Governance - Creating Shared Value." The conference featured keynote addresses by Mr. T.R. Parasuraman, Former Director of Toyota Industries Engine Ltd, and Prof. Abigail Schneider from Anderson College of Business and Computing, USA. Over two days, experts from leading organizations, including Toyota Engineering, Bosch, Saint-Gobain, ITC, Wipro, Schneider Electric, and startups like Smarter Dharma and Grewind, shared insights on ESG implementation across industries. With seven dedicated research tracks and networking opportunities, Utkarsh 2025 fostered discussions on sustainable business practices, reaffirming SJIM's commitment to academic excellence and responsible leadership.

KSCA Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) President Raghuran Bhat inaugurates Udaan at Presidency University

Former cricketer and President of the KSCA ,Mr. Raghuram Bhat inaugurated 'Udaan 2025' ,the annual sports festival of Presidency University Bengaluru. Addressing the athletes who had come from various colleges ,Mr. Bhat spoke about his own sporting journey from being a left arm spinner to becoming the President of KSCA and ensuring that the young and upcoming cricketers from every part of Karnataka get the best training and opportunity. He shared his experience of working closely with the current Indian Cricket team and the discipline it involves. Throwing light on the daily schedule of star cricketers like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma during tournaments , Raghuram Bhat told the young sportspeople that there is no substitute for constant training, team work and the ability to follow a strict regimen. Applauding the Presidency University for promoting sports at a big scale, Mr. Bhat congratulated the participating teams of 'Udaan'. The inter college sports festival saw 75 plus colleges competing in various sports like cricket, basketball, throwball, volleyball, handball and Kabaddi. Mr. Raghuram Bhat was felicitated by Chancellor-Dr. Nissar Ahmed, Director Sports-Major General Gurdeep Narang and Dean Student Affairs-Dr. Anu Sukhdev. Pro VC Dr. Vidya Shankar Shetty and Registrar Dr. Sameena Noor Ahmed Panali were also present on the occasion.

GENEVA

Bangladesh had experienced a 'paroxysm of violence' last year: UN

REUTERS

UN human rights chief Volker Türk said on Monday in his global update to the 58th session of the Human Rights Council that Bangladesh experienced a "paroxysm of violence" last year as the government of the time "brutally suppressed" a student movement that carried human rights as its torch. PTI

VIENNA

Austria's unlikely conservative Chancellor Stocker takes office

GETTY IMAGES

Austria's conservative People's Party (OeVP) leader Christian Stocker on Monday became the country's unlikely new Chancellor to head a three-party governing coalition, weeks after the far right failed to form a government. On Monday, Mr. Stocker was sworn in by President Alexander Van der Bellen at the Hofburg Palace. AFP

MANNEHIM

Two dead, five injured as man drives car into crowd in Germany

REUTERS

A man drove a car into a crowd in Germany on Monday, killing two and injuring five. A 40-year-old German suspect was arrested at the scene. Politicians and police treated the rampage in the southwest city of Mannheim as a suspected deliberate act after Germany has been shocked by two car-ramming attacks since late last year. AFP

LAHORE

120-year-old Ahmadi place of worship demolished in Pakistan

AFP

A 120-year-old worship place of the minority Ahmadi community was demolished by police on the pressure of a radical Islamist party in Pakistan's Punjab province. The police also detained five Ahmadis for protesting the demolition of their worship place in the Chatha area of Gujranwala, some 80 kms from Lahore. PTI

Hegseth pauses cyber offensive against Russia

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered a pause on all of the country's cyber operations against Russia, including offensive actions, U.S. media reports said on Sunday.

The order was part of an overall reevaluation of U.S. operations against Moscow, according to *The New York Times*, with the duration or extent of the pause unclear. The Pentagon declined to comment.

The reported change comes as U.S. President Donald Trump has been pushing for negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, and days after the he berated his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in a White House meeting.

Zelenskyy does not want there to be peace, says Trump

The U.S. President says he won't put up with his Ukrainian counterpart's rhetoric much longer; he takes aim at European leaders who met Zelenskyy for talks in London during the weekend

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump said on Monday that Washington would "not put up with" Volodymyr Zelenskyy's rhetoric much longer, as the U.S. President prepared to meet his top team after a disastrous Oval Office row with the Ukrainian.

"This is the worst statement that could have been made by Zelensky[y], and America will not put up with it for much longer," Mr. Trump said on social media, citing a story quoting Ukraine's President saying the end of the war with Moscow was far off. "This guy doesn't want there to be Peace as long as he has America's backing."

Defence huddle: Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron at the EU summit in London on Sunday. AP

Mr. Trump also took aim at European leaders who met Mr. Zelenskyy for crisis talks in London at the weekend, saying that they had "stated flatly that they cannot do the job without the U.S." "Probably not a great statement to have been made in terms of a show of strength against Russia. What are they thinking," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump is now meeting his top advisers on Monday to discuss the next steps on Ukraine, U.S. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz told reporters. White House officials did not confirm a report by *Axios* that Mr. Trump was considering cutting all military aid to Kyiv following the row.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke by telephone on Monday with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy to discuss the leaders' meeting in London. Mr. Rubio "confirmed the U.S. is ready to negotiate to end the Ukraine-Russia conflict and will continue working with the U.K. towards peace in Ukraine", State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce said.

Indie film *Anora* triumphs at Oscars with five victories

Agence France-Presse
HOLLYWOOD

(From left) Producers of *Anora* Samantha Quan, Sean Baker and Alex Coco after the Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles on Sunday. AP

Independent film *Anora* – the tale of a sex worker whose marriage to the son of a Russian billionaire quickly unravels – was the big winner at the Oscars on Sunday, scooping five awards including best picture.

Director Sean Baker used one of his four acceptance speeches to urge support for independent movies. "I want to thank the Academy for recognising a truly independent film. This film was made on the blood, sweat and tears of incredible indie artists," he said.

Unlike last year's host Jimmy Kimmel, host Conan O'Brien ignored Donald Trump and, despite an astounding week of politics around the war in Ukraine, the ceremony had only one mention of the conflict, and only one speech concentrated on the situation in Gaza.

O'Brien took aim in his opening monologue at the controversy that has surrounded *Emilia Perez*, whose transgender star sank the film's Oscar hopes when a series of offensive tweets were unearthed.

Brazil won its first Oscar for best international feature for *I'm Still Here*.

Adrien Brody won his second career Oscar for his role as Laszlo Toth, a Hungarian Jewish architect making a new life in the United States after World War II in *The Brutalist*. Brody, whose first statuette was for 2002's *The Pianist*, joins an elite club of double winners including Marlon Brando and Jack Nicholson.

One killed, four injured in stabbing attack in Haifa

Agence France-Presse
HAIFA

A stabbing in Israel's coastal city of Haifa killed one person on Monday and ended with the Israeli Arab assailant dead, in the country's first fatal attack since the Gaza ceasefire began in late January.

The stabbing came one day after Israel blocked aid to the Gaza Strip during an impasse over extending the truce in the Palestinian territory.

The six-week first phase of the ceasefire ended over the weekend, as the Muslim holy month of Ramzan began.

The ceasefire deal had enabled the entry of vital food, shelter and medical supplies into Gaza. Israel's decision prompted the United Nations to call for an immediate restoration of the aid.

Monday's attack happened at a bus and train station in Haifa, a coastal city in northern Israel home to a mixed Jewish and Arab population.

"A terrorist exited a bus, stabbed multiple civilians, and was subsequently neutralised by a security guard and a civilian at the scene," police said.

Four injured

Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service said they pronounced dead a man aged around 70, and treated four other wounded people. Police identified the assailant as a member of Israel's Druze Arab minority, but did not specify a motive for the attack.

Israeli fire kills two in Gaza amid impasse over next ceasefire

Reuters
CAIRO

Hamas says Israel's demand to extend the first phase of the ceasefire was taking things to square zero

Israeli fire killed at least two persons in Rafah and injured three others in Khan Younis in the south of Gaza, raising fears among Palestinians that the ceasefire could collapse altogether after Israel imposed a total blockade on the shattered enclave.

A first phase of a ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas that began in January ended over the weekend.

Hamas says an agreed second phase must now begin, leading to a permanent Israeli withdrawal and an end to the war. Israel has instead offered a temporary extension into April, with Hamas to release more hostages in return for Palestinian detainees, without immediate talks on Gaza's future.

Later on Monday, Hamas official Osama Hamdan said Israel's demand to extend the first phase of the ceasefire was pushing things back to "square zero". "The mediators and guarantors bear full responsibility for preventing (Israeli Prime Minister) Netanyahu from sabotaging all efforts made to reach the agreement and for protecting the agreement from collapsing," Hamdan in a news conference.

Afghan and Pakistani forces trade fire at the border as a key crossing remains closed

Associated Press
PESHAWAR

Pakistani and Afghan forces traded fire overnight at a key northwestern border crossing that has been closed for more than a week over a dispute between the two neighbors, officials said on Monday.

The Interior Ministry in Kabul said one Afghan security person was killed and another was injured in the incident at the Torkham crossing, which has been shut for 11 days due to Pakistan disputing Afghanistan's construction of a new border post there.

The Torkham crossing has been shut for 11 days due to Pakistan disputing Afghanistan's construction of a new border post. REUTERS

Both countries have in the past closed Torkham and the southwestern Chaman border crossing, most often over deadly shootings and cross-fire. The crossings are vital for trade and travel between Pakistan and landlocked Afghanistan.

A Pakistani official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that Taliban security forces opened fire unprovoked in the early hours of Monday, targeting Pakistan's border post with automatic weapons. Pakistani personnel returned fire, the official said.

Kabul's response

The spokesman for the Interior Ministry in Kabul said Pakistan initiated the violence and that Afghan border police had tried to resolve the issue through dialogue. "But they (Pakistan) continued this fight and our security forces went into defensive mode and responded."

Government of Telangana
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o. Chief General Manager (Engg), O&M Circle No. V, Sainikpuri, Secunderabad - 94, Telangana.

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender Notice No. & Date

298/CGM(E)/O&MC-V/2024-25, Date : 04.03.2025

Name of Work : Providing inlet with laying of 500 mm dia MS water supply line from source of KDWS Phase-III from Bhagayath (Near Musi River) up to Road No. 7 at HMDA east block only (Phase-1) Sy. No. 1 to 282 to 368, 369(P), 370 to 374(P), 375 to 387, 395 to 401, 454, 456 to 459, 505(P), 510 to 564 situated at Uppal Bhagayath (v), Uppal (M), Medchal Malkajgiri Dist under Uppal Section of SD-II, O&M Division.XIV, Uppal.

Estimate Contract Value : Rs. 368.21 Lakhs

1. Tender Document will be available online from **Date : 04.03.2025 from 5.00 P.M. onwards** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **Date : 18.03.2025.** 2. Name & address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned - **Chief General Manager (Engg), O&M Circle-V, HMWSSB, Sainikpuri, Secunderabad - 500094.** 3. The Contractors/ firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. 4. Further details can be seen on @ **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/-Chief General Manager (Engg.), O&M Circle No. V, Sainikpuri, Sec'bad, Telangana.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes (East Zone-K R Puram Constituency) Room No.309, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No: EE/Lakes/East&KRPC/TN-05/2024-25 Date: 01.03.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the Works/Category
1.	Development of Kalkere Lake by enhancing storage capacity of lake through desiliting and removal of slush and other allied works. (General) Value of Work: ₹.250.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,000/-
2.	Development of Halasuru Lake by enhancing storage capacity of lake through desiliting and removal of slush and other allied works. (General) Value of Work: ₹.400.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.4,80,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Availability of Tender documents on **05.03.2025** after **10:30** am. (2) Pre bid Meeting will be held on **10.03.2025** at **3:00** pm in the office of Chief Engineer, FECC (No 308, 3rd Floor, Annex-2 Building, BBMP head office, NR Square) (3) Last date & Time for receipt of Tenders is **19.03.2025** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **20.03.2025** at **4:30** pm. (5) Date of Opening of Financial Bid **After approval of Technical Bid.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Lakes (East Zone & KRPC)

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Commissionerate of Horticulture
Pant Krishi Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur - 302005
(Email id: jdh.nur.hort@rajasthan.gov.in)
(Telephone No. 0141-2227606)

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. HOR2425A0152 **Date** 20.02.2025 **UBN No.** HOR2425GLRC00151
NIB Ref.- 2943 Date - 20.02.2025

Bids are invited electronically from 20.02.2025 to 03.03.2025 by Commissionerate of Horticulture for Rate Contract for supply of **Secondary HardenedTissue-Cultured Datepalm plants variety Barhee, Medjool, Khunezi (Female) & Al-En City or Madsari and Ghannami (Male) with DNA Fingerprint report** at different districts in Rajasthan.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, e-procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in of the State; and Departmental website. The Estimated cost of the BID inclusive GST is Rs 6.00 Cr.

(Suresh Kumar Ola)
Commissioner of Horticulture
Rajasthan

DIPR/C/2608/2025

कार्यालय नगर परिषद, सीकर (राज.)
संतोषी माता मंदिर के पास, राणी सती रोड़, सीकर Email:- sikarulb.jaipur@gmail.com

No :- F.( )/MCS/POOL/2025-26/16627 Date:- 27.02.2025

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या –

Bid for Supply of Labour in Municipal Council Sikar invited from interested bidders up to 20-03-2025. Other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the state procurement portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** of the State. NIB Code and UBN No are under :-

NIB Code : DLB2425A5925
UBN NO : DLB2425SLOB18467

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	राशि (लाखों में)	अमानत राशि 2%	अमानत राशि 0.5% for MSME
1	नगर परिषद क्षेत्र में सफाई श्रमिक आपूर्ति कार्य	330	660000	1650000
निविदा जारी तिथि		27.02.2025	From 10:00 AM	
ऑनलाईन निविदा विक्रय प्रारम्भ तिथि		27.02.2025	From 06:00 PM	
ऑनलाईन निविदा विक्रय समाप्ति तिथि		20.03.2025	Upto 06:00 PM	
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथि		21.03.2025	From 10:00 AM	

आयुक्त
नगर परिषद, सीकर

राज.संवाद/सी/24/12501

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD, Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru-560 011.

No.EE/SWD/BOM/TEND/01/2024-25 Date: 03.03.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
Two Cover System (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer SWD-Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Expansion/Widening of narrow water vents for Construction of Retaining walls, "U Drains, Box Drains and Culverts/Bridges to Storm Water Drains at Various locations in Bangalore South Constituency of Bommanahalli Zone "Package BHZ-1" (Project No.10, 11, 12 and 13). **Approximate Value of work ₹ in Lakhs: 395.94/-, EMD (in ₹): Rs.1,00,000.00 through KPP Portal and 4,93,920.00/- through BG in favour of EE (SWD-BOM Zone).**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from Govt. of Karntaka KPP from : **05.03.2025. (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting is on **12.03.2025 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date for receipt of Tenders is on **24.03.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of Opening of the bid is **25.03.2025 by 4:30 p.m.** or next working day. **(5)** Date of Opening of the financial bid will be intimated to technically qualified contractor successful bidders on **27.03.2025.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, SWD, Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP.

MYSTERY

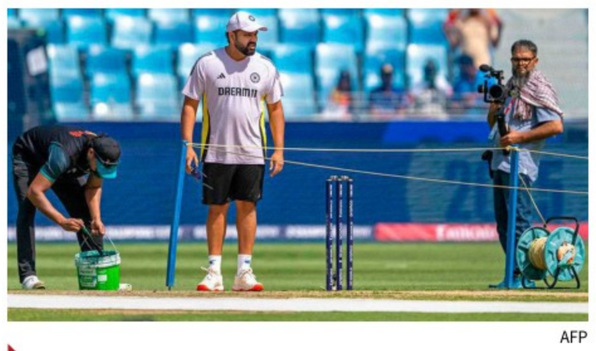
Something about Varun's bowling he's using to his advantage: Rohit

ANI

Rohit Sharma hailed Varun Chakaravarthy's progress over the last few years. "There is something about his bowling which he's using to his advantage. Some of our batters also couldn't figure that out, which is always nice. When you have a bit of mystery, you don't want to be a one-dimensional bowler and bowl at the same speed."

IN DEFENCE

This is not our home, we don't play many matches in Dubai: Rohit



AFP

Rohit Sharma did not approve the claim that India enjoyed a significant advantage by playing all its games in Dubai. "They look the same, but when you play on it they behave differently. The pitch gives you different challenges as a batter every time. This is not our home and we don't play many matches here. This is new for us too."

BIG CHALLENGE

Handling spin in the middle overs will be crucial, says Smith

AFP

Australia captain Steve Smith believes how his batters handle Indian spinners during the middle-overs will decide the outcome of the Champions Trophy semifinal on Tuesday. "It's going to be a challenge. I think there will be some spin, looking at the surface, and we have got to counter that. We have got a few options for how to go about it."

SOLID BACKING

Maxwell is better than a part-time bowler, feels skipper Smith

AFP

Though Australia's spin bowling depth is not as strong as the Indian team's, skipper Steve Smith remarked that his side has enough options. "I think Glenn Maxwell is probably better than a part-timer. Travis Head has done well as well as Marnus (Labuschagne). We have Tanveer Sangha, who also has some quality skills," he said.

Red-hot India runs into familiar foe Australia in high-voltage semifinal

After Varun's magical spell against the Kiwis, focus is on team combination; adjusting to the surface in Dubai a challenge for Smith & Co.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

India versus Pakistan may be one of cricket's greatest rivalries, made more fierce by the political relationship between the two countries, but India against Australia has been one of the most intriguing and hard-fought duels in modern-day cricket.

It has whetted the appetite of fans like no other, producing titanic tussles between bat and ball, as seen most recently in the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Another instalment of this high-voltage contest between the two cricketing heavyweights will be held on Tuesday at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium as they vie for a place in the summit clash of the Champions Trophy.

Right from the build-up to the tournament, the two outfits have had contrasting paths to the last-four stage. The Men in Blue blanked England 3-0 at home and have since extended their unbeaten run in ODIs to six games, beating all three of its Group A opponents – Bangladesh, Pakistan and New Zealand – convincingly.

During the preliminary rounds, India further burnished its credentials as the title favourite. Almost every batter has scored valuable runs while the bowling unit - pacers and spinners alike - have contributed handsomely.

Upbeat: After a perfect Sunday, the Men in Blue will go into Tuesday's clash against Australia high on confidence and belief. PTI

In contrast, the reigning ODI World champion has had an interesting run into the knockout stages. Steve Smith's men have played just one completed game where they chased 352 against England to win by five wickets. Inclement weather meant its other two games were either washed out (South Africa) or called off midway (Afghanistan) and the teams had to share the spoils.

On paper, this is a depleted Australian side without its first-choice pace attack of regular skipper Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, and Mitchell Starc.

Ahead of the semifinal, the team also lost opener Matthew Short, who could bowl useful off-breaks. Southpaw Cooper Connolly has replaced Short.

In terms of team combinations, Varun Chakaravarthy's magical spell (five for 42) against the Kiwis has given the Indian team management a happy headache. It will be interesting to see if the spinner is persisted with, even if it means having just one frontline pacer in Mohammed Shami, for Varun is an unknown commodity for most Aussie batters.

The big challenge for Australia is the transition to the slow surface here in Dubai after playing on featherbed pitches in Pakistan. The batting line-up certainly possesses the ammunition to deal with this, but the spin bowling department, with just one genuine spinner in Adam Zampa, might have to rely on part-timers Glenn Maxwell and Travis Head.

As Bangladesh and Pakistan found out, the absence of a second spinner who could sustain the pressure can prove costly in low-scoring encounters. To play fellow leggie Tanveer Sangha and push Josh Inglis to the opener's slot is an option.

Still, if there is one maxim in cricket that has currency, it is to never underestimate Australia in a big game of an ICC event.

The memories of November 19, 2023, where Cummins & Co stopped the Indian juggernaut - which won all its World Cup matches till then - in the final in Ahmedabad is clear evidence of the Men in Yellow's ability to elevate their game when it matters the most. Can Rohit Sharma and his men rise to the occasion?

India-Australia H2H in ODIs

	M	India	Australia	NR
Overall	151	57	84	10
In Champions Trophy	4	2	1	1

1998	2000	2006	2009
India won by **44 runs** (quarterfinal), Dhaka	India won by **20 runs** (quarterfinal), Nairobi	Australia won by **6 wickets** (group stage), Mohali	No Result (group stage), Centurion

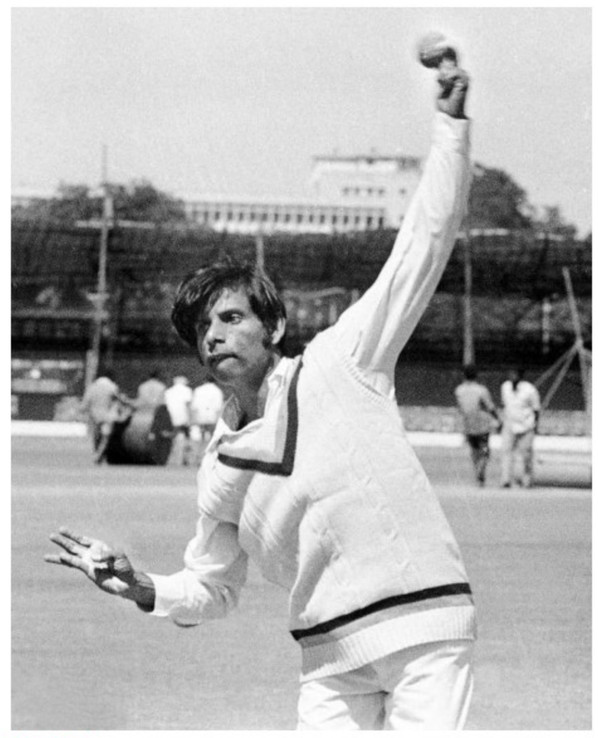
The teams (from): India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill (vice-capt.), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L, Rahul (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohd. Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakaravarthy.

Australia: Steve Smith (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis (wk), Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Adam Zampa.

Match officials: On-field umpires: Chris Gaffaney & Richard Illingworth; **Third umpire:** Michael Gough; **Fourth umpire:** Adrian Holdstock; **Match Referee:** Andy Pycroft

Match starts at 2.30 p.m. IST.

Spin great Shivalkar passes away



Legend: Shivalkar was a linchpin in Mumbai's Ranji Trophy success during the 1960s and 70s. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

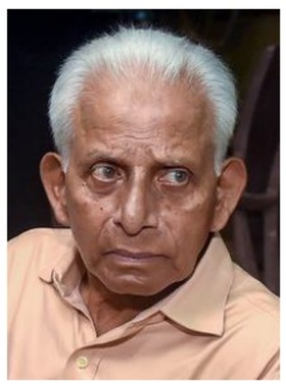
Legendary left-arm spinner Padmakar Shivalkar, one of the most unfortunate cricketers to have missed out on international cricket, passed away here on Monday. He was 84.

Shivalkar, who claimed a staggering 589 wickets in First Class cricket in 124 games at an enviable average of 19.74 in a career spanning a quarter of a century, was among the chief architects of Mumbai's 15-season winning streak in the Ranji Trophy.

Shivalkar, along with fellow left-arm spinner Rajinder Goel, was conferred the Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award by the Board of Control for Cricket in India in 2017. His last public appearance was last month, when he was felicitated by the Mumbai Cricket Association to mark the 50th anniversary of the Wankhede Stadium.

"His dedication, skill, and impact on Mumbai cricket are unparalleled. His passing is an irreplaceable loss to the cricketing fraternity," said Ajinkya Naik, the MCA president.

After being spotted and honed by the great Vinoo Mankad, Shivalkar, a tennis-ball cricketer who made the famous Shivaji Park Gymkhana his second home, debuted for Mumbai (then Bombay) in 1961-62. Shivalkar, who passed on the baton to youngsters after the 1980-81 Ranji final, was forced out of retirement a month before his 48th birthday and he made a mark in the pre-quarterfinal and quarterfinal.



Shivalkar. PTI

With Shivalkar's peak coinciding with India's famous spin quartet, he missed out on an international cap.

Gavaskar's lament

"This is very sad news indeed. Within a short time Mumbai cricket has lost two of its stalwarts – Milind (Rege) and now Padmakar – who were the architects of many a victory.

"One of my regrets as India captain is not being able to convince the national selectors to include Paddy in the Test team. He deserved the India cap far more than some others who got it. That's fate," lamented Sunil Gavaskar, who wrote a piece on Shivalkar in his book *Idols*.

"He was the bowler who would get the best batter from the opposition out and set up wins for Mumbai. He could bowl the whole day with his economical run-up and beautiful action. Paddy was one of a kind and I am deeply saddened by his passing away."

Shivalkar, a passionate singer, took to coaching at the Shivaji Park Gymkhana after his playing days. He also chaired Mumbai's selection panel in 2008-09.

Playing four spinners 'tempting', says Rohit

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

Kuldeep... a vital cog in India's spin wheel. ANI

Rohit Sharma hinted that the team could play four spinners against Australia in the semifinals, too. Varun Chakaravarthy replaced Harshit Rana for the New Zealand game and made a case for including him in the knockout fixture with a five-for.

"We need to think, even if we want to play four spinners, how we can squeeze them in," said Rohit after his side's 44-run win over the Kiwis. "Whatever works for us in terms of bowling options, we will try and do that. But it is tempting.

"We want to go back and think about what the Australian batting line-up will look like and see what will work against them," said Rohit.

Staying calm

Rohit stressed the importance of staying calm during key moments while taking on Australia.

"It's a great opposition to play against. Australia have been such a great team over the years. So, we can expect some fight backs and some nervy times in the middle," he remarked.

Same approach

"All we have to do is what we have been thinking in the last three games and approach the game in a similar fashion.

We understand the opposition and how they play. But I think the more we focus on what we need to do as a group, as a player, as a batting unit, as a bowling unit, that will help us a lot."

Mooney and bowlers deliver emphatic win for the Giants

WPL

Vivek Krishnan
LUCKNOW

Gujarat Giants' Beth Mooney chose the occasion of Lucknow staging a Women's Premier League (WPL) match for the first time to put on a spectacular exhibition of stroke-play. Having contributed just 28 runs in the last four games, the left-handed Australian opener scripted a timely return to form with an unbeaten 96 off 59 deliveries at the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Monday. It consigned host UP Warriorz to an 81-run defeat.

Mooney's exploits set the stage for GG's total of 186 for five. Warriorz's response was wholly inadequate, folding for 105 in 17.1 overs. Tanuja Kanwar and Kashvee Gautam took three wickets apiece. The result was a foregone conclusion once Deepti Sharma's team slumped to 25 for four.

Beth on the money! Mooney's stroke-filled innings powered Giants to a match-winning total. SANDEEP SAXENA

Mooney had an able ally in No. 3 Harleen Deol for most of her innings. In a partnership of 101 runs off 68 balls for the second wicket, they played their roles to perfection.

The latter's 45 off 32 deliveries comprised six fours, three of which came with crisp drives against the seamers through mid-off.

The 31-year-old brought up her half-century, off 37 balls, with a boundary to the right of long-off against Deepti's off-spin. That she was in complete command was apparent when she walloped seamer Kranti Goud for three fours in a row in the 14th over. Three more hits to the boundary rope in the next two overs, peppering the relatively safe region down the ground, meant she had motored along to 85 at the end of the 16th over. At this stage, she was well on course to become WPL's first-ever centurion.

Strangely, though, she managed to face all of five deliveries in the last four overs.

It left her short of a landmark, but she won't mind given the rousing win for her team on Monday.

The scores: Gujarat Giants 186/5 in 20 overs (Mooney 96 n.o., Harleen Deol 45, Ecclestone 2/34) bt UP Warriorz 105 in 17.1 overs (Kashvee Gautam 3/11, Tanuja Kanwar 3/17, Dottin 2/14).
Toss: UP Warriorz. **PoM:** Mooney.
Thursday's match: Mumbai Indians vs UP Warriorz, 7.30 p.m.

> A wonderful, kind-hearted man, a terrific bowler and a big inspiration in the early days of my career
> **RAVI SHASTRI**

> Heard a lot of stories about his exploits in domestic cricket and how unfortunate he was to not represent the country
> **V.V.S. LAXMAN**

INBRIEF

Rahane to lead Knight Riders, Venkatesh Iyer is vice-captain

Ajinkya Rahane will captain defending champion Kolkata Knight Riders in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL). As per an announcement on Monday, Venkatesh Iyer will be Rahane's deputy. "It's an honour to lead KKR, which has been one of the most successful franchises. We have an excellent and balanced squad. I look forward to working with everyone and taking up the challenge of defending the title," said Rahane.

Pant nominated for Laureus Comeback of the Year Award

Rishabh Pant, who returned to action after surviving a horrific car accident in December 2022, has been nominated for the Laureus World Sports Award 2025 in the Comeback of the Year category. The awards ceremony will take place in Madrid on April 21. Pant returned to action for his then IPL franchise Delhi Capitals last year.

Iniyan wins Cannes International Open

Indian GM Pa Iniyan, who remained undefeated with six wins and three draws, won the Cannes International Open with 7.5 points, half-a-point more than compatriot IM Aradhya Garg, who finished second.

IOA order to replace BFI with ad-hoc body stayed

The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) order which replaced the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) with a five-member ad-hoc committee, according to information shared by BFI.

Max Muller HS wins B.T. Ramaiah Shield tournament

Max Muller HS defeated St. Joseph's BHS in the final to emerge as the B.T. Ramaiah Shield under-14 division I tournament champion in Bengaluru.

The scores (final): Max Muller HS 267 in 49.2 overs (Narasimha 31, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 87, Arnav Ravindra Dere 62, Samrudh Girish 4/58) bt St. Joseph's BHS 121 in 33.3 overs (Aarav Bajaj 34, Soumith Kongara 4/21).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES IST)

Tuesday (March 4): Club Brugge vs. Aston Villa, 11:15 p.m.;
Wednesday (March 5): Borussia Dortmund vs. Lille, PSV vs. Arsenal, Real Madrid vs. Atletico Madrid (all 1:30 a.m.); Feyenoord vs. Inter Milan (11:15 p.m.).
Thursday (March 6): Bayern Munich vs. Bayer Leverkusen, Benfica vs. Barcelona, PSG vs. Liverpool (all 1.30 a.m.).

LIVE TELECAST

Champions Trophy (1st semifinal): Australia vs India, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 2.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Holt — an unconventional gradual rise to success

The soon-to-be 27-year-old, who has a degree in real-estate development from the University of California, turned pro as late as 2020, and is finding sustained success on the Tour only now

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

At 16 years, eight months and 28 days, Tracy Austin holds the record for being the youngest US Open singles champion, man or woman.

But her son Brandon Holt, soon to be 27, is in no such hurry. He has a degree in real-estate development from the University of California, turned pro as late as 2020, and is finding sustained success on the Tour only now.

In January, he won his maiden Challenger title, and on Sunday, he bagged his biggest yet – the Bengaluru Open ATP 125, which pushed him to No. 111 in the world, a career-high.

"I had a different upbringing than many of the pros," Holt said. "My family wanted me to get an education. I was not really like 'tennis, tennis, tennis.' I played baseball, basketball, soccer and then I chose tennis.

"Very different from those who started when they were five, playing three hours every day, and no school. It's okay if it works out, but if it doesn't, then you're in trouble."

Interestingly, Holt seemed set for a fast life when he beat current World No. 4 Taylor Fritz in the first round of the 2022 US Open. Ranked 303, he came through the qualifying rounds to stun the 10th seed. But since then, he has featured in just one other Slam main draw – the 2023 Australian Open, where, again as a qualifier, he stretched the then 25th ranked Roberto Bautista Agut to five sets in the second round. Holt doesn't subscribe to the theory that one needs to always achieve young.

"Wawrinka is like 40 right now and he is still playing. In my mom's era, sports science wasn't as strong. Careers are going deeper now. You see people breaking through at 28 and having a great career until they're 36."

Holt may not be plotting the same career graph as his mother - his next target is just to feature consistently at Majors - but she remains his biggest inspiration.

"The way that she lives her life... not a perfectionist, but driven and focused. If you see that every single day, then you have to have a little bit of that in your own life."

Slow and steady: Holt may not be plotting the same career graph as his mother, Tracy Austin, but she remains his biggest inspiration. SUDHAKARA JAIN

daCunha/AB/1009

SNAPSHOTS

Pragg and Aravindh split the point in Prague Masters

PRAGUE: R. Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with fellow Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram as the two moved to 3.5 points, a full point ahead of the nearest challengers after the fifth round of Prague Masters chess tournament here. In the Challengers section, Divya Deshmukh succumbed to her third loss and remained on 1.5 points.

Lazio gets the better of AC Milan

MILAN: An added time penalty by Pedro earned Lazio a 2-1 win over AC Milan at the San Siro in the Serie A on Sunday.

The results:

Serie A: Bologna 2 (Orsolini 48-pen, 56) bt Cagliari 1 (Piccoli 22); Genoa 1 (Vasquez 81) drew with Empoli 1 (Grassi 36); AC Milan 1 (Chukwueze 85) lost to Lazio 2 (Zaccagni 28, Pedro 90+8-pen); Monza 0 lost to Torino 2 (Elmas 41, Casadei 66); Roma 2 (Saelemaekers 61, Dovbyk 76) bt Como 1 (Da Cunha 44).

Rahul stars in South End SC's win

BENGALURU: Rahul Shetty (47 and 4/28) helped South End SC defeat Jolly Cricketers in the KSCA Group I, Division III league here.

The scores: South End SC 274/9 in 50 overs (K. Mahesh 71, Sadashiva Shyamsundar 31, G. Pradeep 32, Rahul Shetty 47, Yathish 31, Mohammed Azharuddin 5/39) bt Jolly Cricketers 141 in 42.3 overs (Barnadeep Gupta 25, Rahul Shetty 4/28, Yathish 3/10).

Jayanagar Cricketers 146 in 42.4 overs (Prithviraj 30, Sharan Gouda 28, Aditya Navalgund 3/23) lost to Friends Union CC (2) 148/7 in 42.3 overs (R. Darshan 61 n.o., Akhil Balachandra 30, Zahoor Faroqui 3/26).

Palar SC (Kolar) 142 in 45.2 overs (Preetesh 40, T. Pradeep 27 n.o., Gaurav Agarwal 4/17) bt RV Engineering College Gymkhana 87 in 26.3 overs (Anand Doddamani 4/16, K.C. Cariappa 4/28).

BEL Colony Recreation Club 210/9 in 50 overs (Shreyas 52, Vinay Radha 48, M. Rohith 41 n.o., C.K. Akshay 3/37) lost to Neptune CC 212/6 in 34.5 overs (Bharath Prashanth 49, Manjesh Reddy 26, C.K. Akshay 55).

New venture: Vasanth Bharadwaj (left) with Anil Kumble (centre) and Lt. Gen. (Dr.) M.D. Venkatesh (second from right) at the signing of the MoU between TENVIC Sports and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NEUFC makes playoffs

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Requiring a victory to qualify for the play-offs, North-East United FC did it in grand fashion, scripting a 3-0 win over Chennaiyin FC in an Indian Super League match on Monday.

NEUFC sealed its place in the top-six (35 points), with one match remaining.

The result: Chennaiyin 0 lost to NorthEast United 3 (Nestor 7, Jithin 26, Ajaraie 38).

Sports and education need to go hand-in-hand: Kumble

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Former India captain Anil Kumble stated that India will struggle to become a sporting nation unless it manages to successfully integrate sports and education.

The leg-spinning legend was speaking during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between TENVIC Sports – an organisation co-founded by Kumble and former International table tennis player Vasanth Bharadwaj – and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) here on Monday.

The MoU aims to launch academic and infrastructural initiatives to develop skilled professionals for the sports industry and provide career pathways for athletes, during and beyond their competitive years. "I was an engineer and if anything went wrong, I knew that I would get a 9-to-5 job somewhere," Kumble said. "That comfort meant I could go out and play. Sport is still seen as an extra-curricular activity. Unless we integrate, we are never going to be a sporting nation."

Recently, badminton great P. Gopi Chand sparked a debate when he said that athletes should think twice before taking up sport if they were not economically well off. Kumble termed it a "fair statement".

"You need a lot of resources. Even in cricket, the kit bag itself is costly. But it is also the responsibility of the athlete to think 'how can I have a cushion or a fallback mechanism'.

"That is what we are trying to do. If you look at all the sporting nations, success comes through universities and college systems."

Bharadwaj outlined the target audiences for the program - the current competitive athlete who needs academic support, the recently retired or those contemplating retirement, and every student who aspires to be a part of the larger sporting ecosystem.

According to Lt. Gen. (Dr.) M.D. Venkatesh, the vice-chancellor of MAHE, the initiative will provide opportunities to sportspersons to help better the habitat that once nurtured them. "The expertise they have is perhaps a bit lacking in the country," he said. "This MoU envisages to bridge that gap."

Top performers in Ranji Trophy (2024-25)

Batting	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Yash Rathod (Vid)	10	18	960	151	53.33	5/3
Shubham Sharma (MP)	7	12	943	240	104.77	3/4
Tanmay Agarwal (Hyd)	7	12	934	177	77.83	4/2

Bowling	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	SR	5WI
Harsh Dubey (Vid)	10	19	69	6/36	38.17	7
Auqib Nabi (J & K)	8	15	44	6/53	30.47	6
Shams Mulani (Mum)	9	18	44	6/85	47.40	3

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